Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Radio Havana Cuba Newscast Interrupted

PA1409141894

[Editorial report] Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish at 1300 GMT on 14 September begins its regularly scheduled "Morning Information Review" newscast with two unidentified female announcers reading the headlines.

Seconds after the newscast begins, one of the female announcers begins to hesitate in her reading.

There is a sudden silence, followed by the announcer beginning to read again, with more hesitation. Seconds later, in the background, an unidentified female voice is heard shouting: "No, [words indistinct]." A banging sound is heard and an unidentified male says: "[Words indistinct] who is there?" The unidentified voice replies: "Open up." More banging sounds are heard, while the announcer makes an attempt to keep reading the news. Then, the announcer abruptly stops reading the news. Banging, indistinct whispering, knocking on the microphone sounds are heard. Then, a male voice shouts something unintelligible. Then, there is more silence on the part of the Havana Radio announcers.

Approximately 23 seconds later, the announcer says: "Friends, we apologize for... [pauses] friends, we apologize for a technical failure we just had here in our studio. Therefore, we are going to repeat the headlines of the most important news of this 0900 [1300 GMT] newscast." At 1303 GMT, the other female announcer begins reading the headlines.

There is 10-second silence, after which the announcer coughs and clears her throat. The unidentified male voice says: "Pull it, pull it." The female announcer, again, intends to continue reading, then becomes silent again. Tapping on the microphone is heard. Unintelligible male and female voices are heard in the background. Then the female is heard to say: "Until 1000, it is over with, let us go [words indistinct]." There is more silence and female announcer resumes reading the news.

The news portion of the program ends as scheduled at 1310 GMT, whereupon regular feature programming continues.

Alarcon: Immigration Ties With U.S. 'Normal'

PA1409191494 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Interview with Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government, by an unidentified correspondent, at the Cuban ambassador's residence in Mexico City on 14 September; from the "24 Hours" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government, arrived this evening from New York. He headed the Cuban delegation to talks with the U.S. Government on the flow of Cuban immigrants to the United States. Mr. Alarcon, what was the result of the talks? I have been told the Cuban Government made an offer.

[Alarcon] In reality, I believe that what matters the most is that a group of agreements was reached that will normalize immigration relations between the two countries and which imply cooperation between the two nations in trying to eliminate illegal immigration to the United States through reasonable, peaceful and persuasive means, starting with the change in U.S. policy. As President Clinton said, henceforth he will no longer allow—as was done for 35 years—any Cuban who arrives there by illegal means to enter the country. That is a basic issue.

[Correspondent] I understand that as of 2200 hours, Tuesday night, Mexico time, the Cuban Government will no longer allow rafters to leave the country.

[Alarcon] In fact, this was the case from 1000 hours, Mexico time, noon on Tuesday in Cuba. As of that moment, we will seize boats attempting to depart toward the United States without meeting the normal immigration requirements. For the past three days, we have been explaining the situation to the people, publishing the agreement, trying to convince them not to leave, which has proven very effective. Yesterday, virtually no one attempted to leave, before we even reached today's deadline.

[Correspondent] Has the U.S. Government agreed to grant a specific number of visas annually?

[Alarcon] The U.S. Government has pledged, specifically, to guarantee at least 20,000 normal immigration visas annually in addition to resolving the situation of what the U.S. calls the waiting list, comprised of approximately 19,000 people who, according to the U.S. Immigration Service, meet the requirements to be granted visas but have not received them because, as you know, there are many people from many countries trying to migrate to the United States and the waiting list is lengthy. However, I believe what matters the most is that the United States has made a pledge, we have both made pledges, to take firm and strong action against any act of violence, any seizing of boats or air piracy in order to reduce illegal immigration. For 35 years, we tried to obtain a pledge from the United States in this area, and this is the first time we have obtained it.

[Correspondent] Based on the reality of relations or nonrelations, pardon me, between Cuba and the United States, what does this mean?

[Alarcon] I believe it means that we have proven that despite this situation of nonrelations or, let us say long-standing confrontation between the two countries, we were able to sit down and debate in a respectful atmosphere, on terms of equality, and obtain a result that both sides welcome as positive.

[Correspondent] Do you believe this agreement will lead to detente in the area?

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[Alarcon] I believe that, in itself, it constitutes a specific step. Although the situation between Cuba and the United States is abnormal, as of last Friday, relations have been perfectly normal regarding the issue of immigration. It is the desire of both governments to establish rapprochement. I believe that to the extent that we can confirm that understanding or agreements are possible on issues that in themselves seem complicated, we will be proving that the path of dialogue and negotiation based on mutual respect is the right path and, moreover, that it is possible.

Returns to Havana From New York Talks

PA1409192394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, chairman of the National Assembly of the People's Government and head of his country's delegation to the recently held talks with the United States on migration, which concluded with an agreement, has returned to Havana after spending a week in New York.

The United States pledged to grant no fewer than 20,000 visas a year to Cuban citizens who wish to travel to U.S. territory and is to take measures against those who use violence.

Cuba will basically use persuasion to prevent the departure of people using their own means to reach the coasts of Florida from Cuba.

In addition to taking part in the talks with the U.S. authorities, Alarcon spoke to numerous television networks and other mass media, held a news conference with Spanish-speaking news correspondents accredited to the United Nations, and held meetings with representatives of friendship with Cuba organizations and representatives of the Cuban-American community.

Alarcon: Immigration Accord Blow to Embargo

PA1509005994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2350 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 14 Sep (PL)—The migration agreement recently signed between Cuba and the United States is a definite blow to U.S. hostility and the blockade, Cuba's chief negotiator Ricardo Alarcon stated here today.

After a brief stopover in Mexico, Alarcon returned to Cuba and stated at Jose Marti International Airport that since last Friday, although there are no diplomatic relations, ties are normal between the two countries in terms of migration issues.

It remains to be seen how long the United States can maintain abnormal relations in other areas of common interest while developing relations in this area, he said. He added that the signing of the agreement is one way to progress toward normal bilateral ties.

The president of the Cuban parliament said the fact that an agreement was reached on such a complex issue confirms the arguments of all of those who have questioned current U.S. strategy and who have demanded negotiations on equal footing, as well as demanded an end to the economic and trade blockade imposed for more than three decades.

The normalization of migration relations is the result of great coordination and cooperation efforts, not only in the recent talks but also in the ones that will follow. This runs counter to the policy maintained by the U.S. Administration, which impedes normal treatment of Cuba.

In response to a question by PRENSA LATINA, Alarcon said the United States is now in a position to manage in a more equitable manner the current situation at Guantanamo Naval Base. He recalled that the majority of emigrants decided to leave the country because of the conditions created by Washington's economic blockade.

He added that, in his opinion, the most complicated problem for the United States is the situation engendered by the measures adopted on 20 August, which banned visits to Cuba, the transfer of money to relatives, and other things.

President William Clinton adopted these measures in light of the so-called mass exodus, but having ended this situation through the migration agreement, there is no longer any sense in punishing the community that lives in Cuba, because these measures run counter to the spirit of the agreement, and hopefully they will be revoked in the near future, he stated.

Last, he said the agreement that was signed benefits both countries and should end the lawlessness and violations committed over the past 35 years, including actions of violence, crime, and hijackings.

Alarcon on Compliance With Accord

PA1509022394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Report on interview with Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, chief negotiator at the immigration talks with the United States and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, "upon his return from New York," by Mario Munoz in Havana on 14 September; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Alarcon] We held certain meetings that were still pending from previous days and that could not be held while we were holding talks with the U.S. delegation. One of these meetings was held with one of your colleagues at the United Nations, with whom we were unable to meet earlier. We met with the head of the Inter-American Dialogue Directorate in New York, with the editors of certain U.S. newspapers, and with certain congressmen who were in New York at the time.

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[Munoz] Cuba has already begun complying with the agreement. When will the United States begin complying with its part?

[Alarcon] I understand that the United States is willing to comply with its part of the agreement. There are a few things they have to organize. They are going to send additional personnel to reinforce their consulate [as heard] in Havana because the number of visa requests will be higher than what they had been before. I believe they are already working to comply with their part of the agreement.

[Munoz] In talks with people who have already gone to the U.S. Interests Section, some say they are not too sure and do not believe the agreements will be fulfilled. What do you think?

[Alarcon] I understand why many people are doubtful and skeptical. Unfortunately, we experienced many years in which the United States did not fulfill the commitments that existed before. I believe the agreement reached last Friday leaves no room for noncompliance, because it is one thing to say that as many as 20,000 visas will be issued, where any figure up to 20,000 is possible, but it is another thing to say that there is a categorical commitment to issue at least 20,000 visas. In addition, there is a clear commitment to resolve the problems of those people on the so-called waiting lists. I believe the U.S. delegates when they say they need a little time to get organized. I do not see any hints that make me think they are not truly committed to fulfilling the agreement they have signed.

[Munoz] In all negotiations, one is always both a winner and a loser. What concessions has Cuba made?

[Alarcon] I do not agree you win and lose in every negotiation. I believe the essence of a negotiation is to identify the interests of each side and to find ways to reconcile the common interests. I believe there are common interests. Every time we were asked and every time they were asked, we both said the same things. We all said the agreement is useful and positive.

We have both said it is beneficial for the United States, and I will repeat that it is a much better agreement than any other agreement previously reached with the United States. It is an agreement that benefits Cuba and thousands of Cubans. It should serve as a basis to put an end to a situation which Cuba has greatly opposed. We put an end to the illegal nature of the migrations. We put an end to violations that were committed for 35 years. These violations even involved acts of violence, crime, kidnapping, and so on. The agreements say we both will work to prevent such situations from recurring. This is totally new. This has never happened before.

We also showed a willingness to resolve the pending visa situation. They agreed to grant more visas, and they have set a minimum for doing this. There is no minimum allocated for almost any other country in the world, and we must note this fact. It is not so easy to migrate to the United States. There are many people from all over the world who would like to emigrate to the United States. It is a rich and developed country. The migration phenomenon is universal. It is not exclusively Cuban. I have a Mexican newspaper here, for example.

Yesterday, according to this newspaper, 600 Central Americans with no papers were deported across Mexico's southern border. They were trying to enter Mexico. On another page of this same newspaper there is a report on the closure of the border between California and Mexico, as proposed by a political figure in California. Therefore, you see there is a serious problem with illegal mass migration. In Mexico's case it is happening along its northern border, but there are also hundreds of people who are deported along the southern border. This is a general, universal phenomenon. Finding a solution in our case, specifically, was more difficult, because there was some manipulation involved. Several successive administrations in the United States used the situation to create problems for Cuba. How did this occur? It occurred by the United States denying people the possibility of normal travel, while encouraging illegal voyages; by warmly welcoming those who broke the law; by treating them as heroes; and by never punishing anyone for any crimes.

Now they have agreed to punish those who commit these crimes—crimes such as abductions and hijackings at sea or in the air—as well as not to tolerate illegal entries. They will give Cuba special treatment by allowing the numerous Cubans who could not travel normally to do so within a reasonably short period of time. I think it is obvious that this is a very important and favorable agreement for Cuba. I also believe it is beneficial for the United States under the new concept that will now prevail.

[Munoz] To a certain extent, the situation at Guantanamo was also included, although it recently deteriorated because of several incidents there. This is a very difficult problem for the United States to resolve, is it not?

[Alarcon] It is a difficult problem, but I believe that any solution the United States seeks must include the end to the situation that prevailed when we signed the agreement. [words indistinct] such as the policy Reagan and Bush maintained, [words indistinct] the interests of the majority of the Cuban community living in the United States. That policy was eliminated with a single stroke of a pen, [words indistinct] and it will generate many more protests, and more so, in my opinion, from the Cuban community in Miami.

I believe this is an urgent topic, but it is quite simple to deal with. First of all, everyone agrees. The Republicans and Democrats have agreed on this for a dozen years. Second, President Clinton adopted the measures as a form of responding in light of August's so-called exodus. There is no sense in punishing tens of thousands of Cuban-Americans now that we have reached an agreement that puts an end to this critical stage. This fact, which runs counter to the spirit of the agreements, will prompt them to review their decision—which I hope they do very soon—and thereby stop infringing upon the legitimate rights of many people.

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TV Airs Alarcon's Remarks on Accord

FL1509032194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Interview with Ricardo Alarcon, head of the Cuban delegation to the U.S.-Cuban talks, by unidentified correspondent at Jose Marti International Airport upon Alarcon's return from New York on 14 September; from the "NTV" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Alarcon] The United States is willing to comply with their part of the agreement. There are certain things that they have to organize. They are going to have to send additional personnel to reinforce the personnel at their consulate [as heard] in Havana because the volume of visas is going to be larger, several times larger, than what they had before. However, I believe they are already working toward complying with their part of the agreement.

[Correspondent] There is give and take in all negotiations. What concessions has Cuba made?

[Alarcon] I do not agree with that. Things are not won and lost in negotiations. The essence of negotiations is identifying each side's interest and finding a way to bring them together. This means finding points of interest that are common to both sides, and I believe there are common points of interest. Every time that we or they are asked something, we always respond with the same thing. The accord is positive and useful. They say it is positive for the United States, and that is true. We say, and I will repeat this constantly, this agreement is superior to any other agreement that we have ever had with the United States. This agreement benefits Cuba and it benefits thousands of Cubans. This agreement should serve as a basis to end a situation that Cuba has fought against.

[Correspondent] After this agreement, does the atmosphere in the United States favor having further negotiations? Are there new sectors interested in that possibility?

[Alarcon] Well, in regards to your question, everything that has been published after the agreement favors continuing the dialogue, continuing negotiations, and finding solutions to bilateral problems. In that sense, there was an editorial last Saturday in THE NEW YORK TIMES. Some U.S. politicians have done the same. This is a tendency that, I believe, will continue in as much as they see that it was possible to reach an agreement and that it will be possible to implement this agreement.

[Correspondent] The situation at Guantanamo was also included, although it recently deteriorated because of several incidents there. That is a very difficult problem for the United States, perhaps the most difficult problem to resolve. Do you agree?

[Alarcon] It is one of the problems. However, I believe that any solution that they want to implement now required, as a first step, halting the situation that was taking place until this agreement was signed. As of Friday's agreement, they are in a condition to handle the situation in a more equitable manner. In my opinion, the most complicated and serious problem, apart from Guantanamo, is the situation that they have created with the measures that President Clinton decided to implement on 20 August, that is the measures that prohibit travel to Cuba from Miami, money being sent to relatives, and the shipment of packages. This is something that is not new; this comes from the 1970's, during the Carter administration, an activity that even Reagan and Bush's conservative administrations maintained and respected. Why? Because they correspond with the interest of the majority of the Cubans residing in the United States.

GRANMA Cited on Compliance, U.S. 'Persistent Hostility'

PA1409183994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0748 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 14 Sep (PL)—Cuba today underscored that it is stopping the flow of illegal immigrants from the island to the United States with the implementation of the persuasive measures adopted by its government. Cuba also stressed that Washington's persistent hostility is the root of the economic situation that forces this illegal migration.

In a "report from the Cuban Government to local and international public opinion" published by GRANMA, it is said that between 1200 on Tuesday, 13 September, and 0000 on Wednesday, 14 September, no illegal departure had been reported and there were no devices for this purpose along the coast. The note adds that no forceful action had been reported.

The note states that the agreements reached between Washington and Havana favorably influenced these actions; however, it warns that the island has 3,400 km of coastline from which approximately 15,000 candidates for immigration attempted to reach the United States during the first six months of this year.

Last week, delegations from Cuba and the United States agreed that the Washington government would grant a minimum of 20,000 visas a year for Cuban candidates for immigration, in addition to the visas granted to the immediate families of U.S. citizens of Cuban origin.

The note stresses that, after 35 years of pretending that any Cuban who reached the United States would be well received, it is difficult to erase that idea and for this reason, there will always be some people who will attempt this and some who will make it.

"Anyway, the main factor that encouraged the massive exodus, that is, the economic blockade, continues to be enforced with all its cruelty and brutality," the note adds.

In this regard, it added that each week, 1,700 hours of radio transmissions are beamed to the island "to promote subversion, social disorder, counterrevolution," and that this conspires against the two countries' efforts to solve the problem that was created by the massive emigration by individual means.

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The note also stressed that nowhere in the world is the problem of illegal departures for economic reasons solved solely through restrictive measures or the use of force.

Further on, it highlighted Cuba's constructive role in seeking solutions to the issue, solutions "which can only be viewed as a first step toward in-depth solutions that must be sought to resolve this and other problems stemming from the already lengthy, obsolete, and absurd policy of aggression and hostility maintained against our country by the United States."

In this regard, the report indicated that complex and difficult problems still persist, including those involving the tens of thousands of Cubans in the shelters outside the United States, which require special attention "so that any solution will not flagrantly contradict the agreements."

The text stated that "three days and 20 hours after the New York migration agreements were signed, Cuba has complied with the difficult task of halting the massive departures, and it has done so in an exemplarily calm and humane manner. We will strictly comply with the other commitments that were made."

It concluded stating that "now we will observe how the U.S. side will comply."

Officials Discuss Measures To Protect Coastline

FL1509011394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Report by Zenaida Gonzalez; from the "National Radio News"; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Gonzalez] The Havana coastline is peaceful. The disturbing scenes of previous days have been left behind thanks to Interior Ministry soldiers, who told Radio Rebelde:

[Unidentified speaker] "Our efforts to discourage illegal emigration have been of a persuasive nature and have worked well...

[Unidentified correspondent, interrupting] "You have not had to use force?

[Unidentified speaker] "Never. We did not even have to use pressure. The entire coast has been peaceful since yesterday, and the whole country has returned to normal. We are picking up the abandoned, broken rafts that we found on the beaches this morning. I don't think they belong to anyone in particular. We expanded our ranks a bit, for we saw this as a great opportunity to work on our work plan, coordination, communication, etc. But, as you can see—and you can walk the entire coastline—everything is peaceful."

[Gonzalez] A high-ranking official explained how the Cuban coastline will be guarded from now on:

[Unidentified speaker] "Just as we did before 12 August, the day the commander in chief issued the order, just as we did in previous years when we tried to honor the emigration law."

[Gonzalez] The military official also mentioned how those who repeatedly try to leave illegally would be handled:

[Unidentified speaker] "These departures cannot be avoided completely. We have 3,500 kilometers of coastline and many small islands. Anyone who persists will be subject to the law, according to the circumstances surrounding each specific case. Each case will be dealt with as it arises. This violation of the emigration law—illegal departure—is a minor crime, really. I don't know if it could be tempered by certain circumstances, like the use of force, taking advantage of the moment to hijack or steal a vessel, that sort of thing. This is normally treated in another way, preventive, etc."

[Gonzalez] The Interior Ministry official noted that the Border Guard divisions began taking rigorous action several months ago:

[Unidentified speaker] "Border Guard troops have been performing at a very high level for several months. I would say that in the last few years, in carrying out other missions—such as the fight against drug trafficking—they have exerted great efforts. In defending our coastline against subversive enemy infiltration, as you know, they never stray from their plans and try to carry them out without fail."

Government Declares 'Mass Exodus' Over

FL1509001394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] The Cuban Government would like to report the following to the domestic and international community:

The mass exodus has been stopped with exhortations and persuasion and the use of effective preventive measures, including warnings and orders not to use rafts or to transport rafts and the materials to make rafts to the coasts. This was done without force or violence and with the cooperation of the people, particularly those interested in emigrating who observed the warnings.

Not one departure was reported between 1200 and 2359 on 13 September 1994. No rafts or vessels of any kind remain on the beaches. The objective was reached without a single incident, without casualties, and without a single drop of blood being spilt. The Interior Ministry acted with impressive efficiency. The coast guard and interior forces carried out their duties impeccably, with exemplary discipline and dedication to instructions.

The New York agreement stating that a minimum of 20,000 visas will be granted annually, in addition to those granted to close relatives of U.S. citizens of Cuban origin, and the commitment to processing those on the waiting list clearly helped efforts to stop the mass exodus.

Many who would like to leave the country have now decided to fill out the necessary paperwork to emigrate legally. Nevertheless, all is not rosy in a country with 3,400

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kilometers of coastline. More than 15,000 people tried to leave for the United States illegally during the first semester of 1994—which ended on 30 June, prior to the 12 August measures of flexibility—due to the worsening economic situation and encouragement from abroad, despite the ample measures of vigilance that were being applied. Although Cuban authorities prevented 75 percent of them from emigrating, approximately 4,000 of them were able to achieve their goal.

The policy for 35 years was to welcome any Cuban citizen, regardless of the means he used to arrive or his social conduct—whether or not he hijacked a vessel or committed a crime to meet his goal. You need only recall how the U.S. Government ignored its own instructions and measures in August, regarding those who arrived there illegally. More than 25,000 people left the country after Clinton's announcement on 19 August, each one believing that it did not matter where he was taken because the United States had to receive him sooner or later. This kind of conviction or belief does not develop overnight, despite established agreements and the U.S. obligation to discourage illegal departures.

People will always try this: Some will probably make it, despite the measures that we may take. We noted this during the talks in New York. We now must assess the results of U.S. measures, in addition to those that Cuba has taken in the past to discourage and prevent those departures.

Meanwhile, the primary motivator of the mass exodus—the cruel and brutal economic blockade—remains in place. New measures, such as increased radio and television broadcasts—incompatible with the established rational and constructive migration agreement—also remain in place. A total of 1,700 hours of radio broadcasts are now aimed at our country each week to promote subversion, social indiscipline, and counterrevolution.

These factors work against Cuban and U.S. efforts to solve a problem as acute, complex, and risky as the one created by the mass exodus. The problem of illegal departures encouraged by economic factors can never be solved with restrictive measures or force alone. This is not the time to [words indistinct] U.S. responsibility in solving this problem. However, it is fair to point out Cuba's extremely constructive role in the search for solutions that can only be seen as a first step toward sound solutions, which need to be found to solve this and other problems derived from the lengthy, outdated, and absurd U.S. policy of aggression and hostility against our nation. There are still very complex and difficult problems to be resolved, sequels to this crisis, those related to the tens of thousands of citizens in the so-called shelters outside the United States. Such a delicate issue will continue to require special attention and careful examination so that any solution does not flagrantly contradict the established agreements.

Three days and 20 hours after the migration agreements were signed in New York, Cuba has fulfilled the difficult task of stopping the mass exodus in an exemplary, level-headed, and humane way. We will be sure to keep up our end of the bargain, while watching to see if the United States does the same.

Minint Provides Refugee Information From U.S. Sources

FL1509133594 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] On 15 September, GRAMMA newspaper published a document issued by the Ministry of the Interior [Minint]:

Between 5 August and 3 September, especially during the period beginning 15 August when thousands of citizens wishing to emigrate left by their own means, the Border Guard forces recovered six bodies of drowned people on the coast or in Cuban jurisdictional waters. Four were precisely identified and handed over to relatives; two could not be identified and were buried. Additionally, in Santiago de Cuba's Baconao, one crew member of a raft voluntarily returning to shore died accidentally when he jumped into the sea to assist the raft.

During the same period, the Border Patrol boats assisted and returned 3,398 people who were or could have been at risk. This explains why the number of confirmed victims in our jurisdictional waters and on the Cuban coasts is minimal.

In coming days, through the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], the Minint will provide relatives with the information gathered to date from U.S. public sources regarding those in the so-called refugee camps inside the United States and abroad. This requires intense research and identification efforts in available registers, in identifying individuals by province and municipality, and in searching for addresses because the public sources mention only name and age. So far, there is verified data and addresses for several thousand people. The main difficulty is that the information is incomplete: often, the second-last name is not available, while in numerous cases, the immigrants themselves have given completely fictitious names. There also are numerous cases of duplicate names. It is therefore difficult to obtain the necessary details from those public sources.

As more precise information arrives, it will be given directly to the interested parties. Several days ago, the Minint asked U.S. representatives in Cuba to authorize the people in refugee camps to write their relatives here, so that those relatives may receive news and written evidence of their family members' whereabouts. So far, however, no response has been received. Minint, Havana, 14 September 1994.

Robaina 'Would Not Rule Out' U.S. Invasion

FL1409174394 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish GMT 1432 14 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina described his official visit to Spain as very positive. The visit culminated

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today with a news conference at the Cuban Embassy in Madrid. Robaina arrived in Spain on 6 September and met with King Juan Carlos, President Felipe Gonzalez, Foreign Minister Javier Solana, parliament members, businessmen, and Catalonian authorities. During his last meeting, Robaina spoke with King Juan Carlos for an hour about Spanish-Cuban relations and called their meeting superb and very sincere.

In reply to a question about the possibility of an invasion of the island [la isla], Robaina said he would not rule out the possibility, but that the best way to win a war is to avoid it, even though Washington has had a chokehold on Cuba to stir up social tensions.

Robaina criticized the United Nations' politics and lack of democracy and said that nothing makes one feel more insecure than a meeting of the UN Security Council. During his news conference in Madrid, he added that the world feels an involuntary distaste toward any UN plan because there is no equality or democracy in the institution. Robaina condemned the imminent U.S. invasion of Haiti, which he called regrettable, because it could set a dangerous precedent in the region. He said that wars are now called something else—such as preventive diplomacy—and are ostentatiously shown on television. Robaina added that he will leave Madrid for Havana today.

During a consultation in Madrid, Robaina told three members of the government opposition that to initiate a meeting of this nature, many prejudices must be eliminated. Regarding the agreement reached in New York between Cuba and the United States, Robaina said that Washington should work to solve the rafter problem and honor their agreements. On the steps Cuba will take to end illegal departures, Robaina stressed that it depends on Washington's seriousness in making it clear that illegal departures are not the way, and reiterated Cuba's willingness to expand dialogue to other issues. Robaina also expressed his nation's willingness to broaden and continue economic reforms, and emphasized Cuban guarantees to foreign investors in Cuba.

Robaina: U.S. Action in Haiti Threatens Regional Autonomy

LD1409122094 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina commented on the possible U.S. military intervention in Haiti at a news conference ending his official visit to Spain. Robaina condemned the threat to regional sovereignty posed by the threatened intervention, which has UN authorization. Robaina said nothing makes Havana more insecure as when the UN Security Council meets.

Robaina Meets With Spain's King Juan Carlos

PA1409224794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0105 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By Alfredo G. Pierrat]

[Text] Madrid, 13 Sep (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina made a grand finale when concluding his official visit to Spain, which started last Tuesday, when he met with King Juan Carlos I, head of the Spanish state, for an hour today.

The unexpected lengtn of the meeting prompted surprise in the Madrid news media, because they are accustomed to much shorter meetings, especially when the people meeting with the monarch are not heads of state.

More than for its length, the importance of the royal audience was salient because of its substance, which Robaina described as "extremely positive."

Talking to PRENSA LATINA a few minutes after leaving La Zarzuela Palace, the official residence of the royal family, the Cuban foreign minister revealed some of the topics broached at the meeting.

According to the minister, the meeting with the head of the Spanish state was held "in the most cordial of atmospheres," and he underscored that, as always, he had been thanked for relaying Cuban President Fidel Castro's regards.

The king reciprocated the Antillean leader's regards and asked that, in his name, Robaina extend to Fidel Castro our "special regards, which are warm and respectful, as are my and Spain's relations with Cuba," Robaina reported.

He explained that the monarch showed "marked interest" in the current situation in Cuba, "and not only was he interested in our critical situation, but he was especially concerned about how we, the Cubans, are coping with it."

Juan Carlos is glad, of course, that steps continue to be taken that will allow Cuba, which is facing difficult and complicated circumstances, to find its own solutions amid its serious economic situation and the pressure being applied by foreign aggression and the blockade, the Cuban foreign minister added.

In terms of the U.S. blockade against the island, the king "ratifies and supports Spain's position," Robaina noted.

According to the foreign minister, the king was pleased that Robaina was able to maintain such a full agenda during his visit to the country and that the agenda served to exchange opinions, not only for Cuba to be heard but also for Cuba to hear other points of view.

The monarch "deeply wishes that whatever the Cuban people decide, and only the Cubans themselves can decide, they be as successful as possible, and, in turn, not only does he want to lend Spain's understanding, respect, and affection, but he also wants to ratify what he, on repeated occasions, has discussed with Fidel Castro at the summits and will continue to discuss," Robaina said.

The Cuban foreign minister, when summing up his opinion on the meeting he just held with the Spanish king, stressed the meeting featured "affection, a good atmosphere, frankness, appreciation for the greetings sent to Fidel Castro, and

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a conversation in which he not only listened, but constantly asked questions to elaborate."

"The visit could not have concluded better than the meeting with the king," the Cuban leader finally said.

Asked whether he had invited the king to visit Cuba—the only topic the Spanish press mentioned this evening as being part of the interview—Robaina stressed that he had not spoken about this with the monarch.

He recalled that the invitation to the king to visit Cuba was issued a long time ago, adding that such a visit will take place when Juan Carlos decides it is appropriate.

Returns From Spain

PA1509015594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2340 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 14 Sep (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina returned to this capital city today following a week-long official visit to Spain, where he held important meetings geared to strengthen several aspects of bilateral ties.

This afternoon, the foreign minister and the delegation that accompanied him arrived at Havana's International Jose Marti Airport from Spain. Their visit to that country ended yesterday and included meetings with King Juan Carlos I and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Robaina also met with politicians, parliamentarians, businessmen, and merchants interested in investment opportunities on the island, as well as with members of the Cuban community who reside in foreign countries and activists from Cuban solidarity organizations in the Iberian country.

The foreign minister's visit to Spain is part of a diplomatic offensive started several weeks ago with a tour to Latin American countries.

Cails Visit 'Very Positive'

PA1509030194 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Report by Barbara Betancourt from Madrid; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Hello, friends. By the time you hear this report Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina will have arrived in Havana. He left Madrid at noon on 14 September, shortly after holding a news conference in which he described his official visit to Spain as very positive.

In his usual style, Robaina told representatives of more than 35 foreign, domestic, and independent media that his visit ended on a high note. He was referring to a pleasant meeting on 13 September with His Majesty King Juan Carlos I. For one hour, they talked about relations between the two countries and the current situation in Cuba. Robaina said that he found in the Spanish monarch the same respect and understanding that he had found in other high-ranking officials in this country:

[Robaina] "I think that we were able to demonstrate to the world and anyone who is interested that independence causes major differences on many issues, but that this does not limit talks. Moreover, my country and all of us need to identify the differences, because they give us perspectives that are always useful for analysis and also for later discussions that are worth holding, not only on the basis of what we think, but also on what (?others) think.

"I am pleased with the visit. I do not want to say that I am totally pleased, because we have been taught never to be satisfied completely, as things can always be improved upon. I think, however, that the timing and the scope of the visit allowed us to raise to another level—I would say an extremely high, secure, [word indistinct] and sincere level—the communications between Spanish and Cuban authorities.

"I say between Spanish and Cuban authorities because during this visit it was not necessary to talk about serious ties between the Spanish and Cuban peoples, because I think that the relationship between those peoples goes beyond any ideology and political affiliation and has for a long time."

In reply to other questions, the Cuban foreign minister termed as satisfactory the fulfillment of the migration agreement signed between Havana and Washington last week, because it showed that the two governments can discuss their differences without mediators:

[Robaina] "If this agreement and its application have created favorable conditions for talks on other issues, I assure you that the Cuban side will not be unwilling. Cuba is not only demanding to know whether this will be accepted. Cuba is simply telling the world that the agenda can be broadened, and it wants it broadened, because many issues could be discussed between Cuba and the United States."

The foreign minister also talked about the announced invasion of Haiti. He reaffirmed that Cuba does not think an invasion will resolve the problem:

[Robaina] "I think that the unpleasant thing about this is not the repercussions for Haiti—it would be very sad for Haiti and the world—but the fact that it will unfortunately set a precedent in the region. What is being done to Haiti could be done to other countries in the future."

In answering other questions, he confirmed that his government will never hold talks with those who, while in the country, have sought credentials abroad to become the alleged opposition. In his last meeting with the Spanish media, he discussed Cuba's position on the Rio Group and the Latin American Parliament's call for the island's integration to the regional community:

[Robaina] "We are very glad that several regional integration institutions and mechanisms have begun to voice their

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positions on issues as important as Cuba's integration into a Latin American community from which they once tried to separate us.

"We know that it is not a case where those who are speaking out today did not want to speak out before, because we know that important statements from regional neighbors do not always depend on their desire to express themselves, but on how statements like this can radically affect the present and future of their very weak economies, and above all, because they are [word indistinct] dependent on the powerful [words indistinct] in the region.

"At any rate, I want to say that it is extremely important and positive that a group of institutions made statements like this. I do not think that this will get Cuba invited to the summit now being organized. This might surprise you, but I want to confirm Cuba's position toward that summit. Cuba does not condemn it. Cuba thinks that if the summit is extremely useful to the peoples of the American Continent—and this is not the first time that Cuba sincerely says that if it is useful for America—it will also be useful to Cuba even if Cuba is not present."

Roberto Robaina also announced that the UN high commissioner for human rights will arrive in Cuba on Sunday at the invitation of the government. He stated that our country might have deficiencies in this area, but it has also accomplished much.

The hour that the Cuban foreign minister dedicated to the Spanish media on the morning of 14 September in Madrid was characterized by an atmosphere of respect and cordiality. He thanked them for the extensive coverage they gave to his visit. Robaina said he knows that this coverage will not end with his departure.

I know for a fact that on 14 September the most important media continued to cover his major statements.

Delegation to IAEA Arrives in Vienna

FL1409153294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The Cuban delegation chaired by Andres Garcia de la Cruz, executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission, has arrived in Vienna, Austria, to participate in a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], which is to begin this week.

Garcia and his group will participate in the meeting of the Governors' Council of the IAEA, of which Cuba is member until 1995.

The Cuban delegation will also participate in the opening ceremony for the signing of the international convention for nuclear safety.

Journalist Reviews Status of Nuclear Projects

PA0809182794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Interview with Jorge Petinov Martinez, journalist and information officer of Cuba's Nuclear Energy Center, assigned to the Executive Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs, by Barbara Betancourt on the "Evening Information Review" newscast; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Betancourt] Despite Cuba's difficulties in the context of the special period, the Cuban nuclear program continues at an unswerving pace and reinforces the peaceful pursuit [words indistinct] Tlaltelolco Treaty and complement the country's efforts to use nuclear technology to resolve economic and service-related problems. We will [words distinct] the topic with the statements of Jorge Petinov, special journalist of the Nuclear Energy Center's information office.

[Petinov] [Words indistinct] and I will refer to this. We consider it a priority to finish the nuclear center and get it operational in order to produce electricity. This would [words indistinct] the Cubans, but this is not all. Despite the difficulties in this situation called, as you all know, the special period in peacetime, this is very important in the [words indistinct] of the economy; for example, the nuclear center plays an important part in the search for oil in the country. There are important nuclear techniques used in agriculture, cattle raising...

[Betancourt, interrupting] And medicine.

[Petinov] Yes, medicine. Well, I did not mention medicine because it was the first [words indistinct] in Cuba many years ago, and where nuclear technology has been more developed. Nuclear medicine is common in Cuba, it is almost [words indistinct]. In addition, our nation must conclude [words indistinct] a very important work, the Isotopes Center which is being constructed on the outskirts of Havana. It is a very important project, considering what it represents for the medical sector, for technology, agriculture, and cattle raising. We are now and have been working hard on this. It should be noted that the nuclear center has not been affected by this special period in peace time and will continue its work the technology is perfected. This technique is very important for the economy, for health...

[Betancourt, interrupting] Could you discuss the future operation of [word indistinct] nuclear center?

[Petinov] [Words indistinct] there is interest on the part of Russia to build it now [words indistinct]. The only problem now is that Cuba and Russia are looking for a third partner, capable of participating in a joint venture [previous two words in English] in diverse enterprise, with Cuba completing the project. We are in need of financial backing now. Nevertheless, I can give you some good news. There are several companies that are very interested in seeing this project continue.

[Betancourt] What about Cuba's basic achievements, or accomplishments, in this area? There is the human factor in nuclear development, and I want you to comment on this. What is the level of technical training of the Cuban personnel in this sector?

[Petinov] Cuba has thousands of physicians; however, it also has almost 1,500, more than 1,400 nuclear technicians.

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Many of them were trained in the former Socialist Republics, particularly in [words indistinct] and in [words indistinct]. Since 1981 when Cuba achieved nuclear capacity, a large number of them [words indistinct] this capacity turned into the [words indistinct] Scientific Superior Institute. For several years now, the majority or all nuclear experts have been trained at this institute. I can [words indistinct] the equipment they have, advanced methods are being used to train them so that in a relatively short time these people can resolve [words indistinct] not only nuclear in matters directly. The problem is that this is a multidisciplinary science.

Official Confirms Joint Oil Enterprise With Mexico

PA1509013494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2208 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By Gerardo Arreola]

[Text] Havana, 14 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Cuba and Mexico will establish a joint oil enterprise for the operation of the biggest refinery in the island through an investment and debt barter mechanism, official sources stated today.

The signature of the agreement will take place "soon", according to Julio Fleites, director of the Comercial Cupet, a state enterprise that handles Cuba's international oil operations.

In statements to NOTIMEX, Fleites said that Comercial Cupet and Mex-Petrol (a subsidiary of the state Mexican Petroleum, Pemex) reached a financial agreement and conducted technical tests that confirmed the feasibility of operating the plant.

He refused to provide details of the operation but said the agreement is based on a mechanism that includes the input of new funds by Mexico and the exchanging of assets for debt (barter).

The original plan, according to the formal negotiations which began last March, called for an investment of some $200 million. "Even though the operation is very complex and the construction of two refinery units is still pending, we are very optimistic over the results," Fleites said.

Mexican Ambassador Carlos Tello Macias said the signing of the agreement could take place during Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel Tello Macias' visit to the island next week, when a mixed intergovernmental commission will hold sessions.

The petroleum agreement is in line with Mexican private company investments in telecommunications, cement, tourism, textiles, and glass in the Caribbean country.

The binational consortium will finish construction of the largest Cuban refinery, located in Cienfuegos, 297 km southeast of Havana, which is currently unfinished and nearly paralyzed because of a lack of fuel and maintenance. Production from this plant will supply the domestic by-products market and surpluses will be exported. This will be supported by the purchase of crude under the best commercial terms, without excluding Mexican petroleum, the Cuban official pointed out.

Technicians of the two [words indistinct] and thus the plant will be able to process a mixture of several crudes, including the "Istmo" (light) and "Maya" (heavy) Mexican export formulas.

Mexico sells petroleum by-products to Cuba under commercial terms based on one-month letters of credit [confirmadas a un mes]. Total sales of this Mexican product to the island were $92 million last year.

Cuba is facing an acute fuel shortage due to an abrupt drop in imports from the defunct Soviet Union, dropping from 13 million tons of crude per year to less than half that amount in the past four years.

Official Discusses Tlatelolco Treaty

FL1009154694 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Interview with Vice Foreign Minister Jorge Bolanos by Antonio Resillez in the studio on the "Open Agenda" program—live]

[Text] [Resillez] Good evening. In the last few weeks national and international public opinion have been very motivated by incidents taking place in Cuba and which are projected in a singular manner abroad, for example the conversations that are being held in the United States on the migratory differences and other issues that we want to discuss.

Also, the events that are taking place regarding the illegal departures are also the object of much discussion by national and international public opinion. On the national plane, other issues are also of maximum interest for the people. I am referring to the preparations for the sugar harvest, our efforts in the food program, and all the modifications of the administrative structure of our state.

In this context, a few days ago, Cuba announced its decision to adhere to the Tlatelolco Treaty. This decision is obviously also another reason for attention by national and international public opinion because of the impact of this news and the decision. I would say that this information also caused international press agencies to pay attention to this decision by our government.

For some days now, we have been announcing that that is the subject we would discuss today on "Open Agenda." For that purpose, today we have Comrade Jorge Bolanos, vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Relations [Minrex]. Good evening.

[Bolanos] Good evening, Resillez.

[Resillez] In addition to this, on our program we will have a segment with declarations that comrade Andres Garcia, head of Cuban nuclear affairs, has made for this program.

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Bolanos, I would like to start this discussion by asking you to explain the meaning and scope of the Tlatelolco Treaty.

[Bolanos] Well, the Tlatelolco Treaty seeks to free Latin America, one of the most densely populated regions of the world, from nuclear weapons. This is the first treaty of its kind created in the world. It was first proposed by Brazil in 1962. It then obtained the interest and support of a group of countries like Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Finally, on 14 February 1967 it was signed at the Mexican Foreign Ministry, which is right next to Tlatelolco Plaza. That is where it obtained its name and it is recognized officially as the Tlatelolco Treaty. This treaty has been signed by just about all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is an international treaty.

Resillez, I wanted to take the opportunity to say that it is not nor does it have anything to do with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which is a more universal treaty that includes all those countries that have signed it. We have not taken any step to adhere ourselves to this treaty because we consider it completely different in its objectives and completely discriminatory from beginning to end. I wanted to clear this up because the media was talking about the Nonproliferation Treaty and we are talking about the Treaty for the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons for Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Resillez] For Latin America and the Caribbean. Nevertheless, based on the explanation you have given on the first question, we have the idea that we have been one of the last countries to sign this treaty. What reasons have existed for us not to have adhered to this treaty before, and why was the decision made under these current circumstances.

[Bolanos] I believe we must define two period of Cuba's international policy. When this treaty emerged in Latin America, our relations with Latin America did not have the strength and development that they have today. Never before have we had such good relations with Latin America as we have today. We are talking about the 60's when relations with Latin America were limited basically to Mexico. We are talking about an epoch characterized by [words indistinct] authoritarian governments that were not very motivated to establish relations with Cuba. We are talking about a time when Latin America in the international forums followed a policy very close to the United States' policy. That situation changed. [Words indistinct] today we have a Latin America that is proceeding toward integration and a Latin America that does not exclude Cuba, but rather sees Cuba as a part of it. Integration is not only the will of a government to integrate itself. It is a combination of international and diplomatic actions and steps. It is an action of agreement and of homogenization and we have always declared that Cuba supported that policy and that Cuba would do all it could, and at times give up a small piece of our sovereignty, to form part of this Latin American integration project.

We have always said that we support the denuclearization of the zone and we have reiterated this in international organizations in our speeches and declarations. Nevertheless, we have certain opinions concerning the insufficiencies of the Tlatelolco Treaty. This together with the different atmosphere and setting of Latin America made us keep our position. Nevertheless, beginning in 1991, when the schemes of integration began and we began to form part of these schemes—the Ibero-American summit for example—many presidents in this new atmosphere which characterizes Cuba's relations with Latin America expressed their interest for Cuba to adhere to this treaty.

We must add that of all the Latin American countries, 10 or 12 of them are currently developing a program for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Anyone who has this kind of program would want those who also have a program but remain outside of the treaty to join the treaty. This is only natural. We would think likewise if we were on the other side.

They approached us and asked us to join the Tlatelolco Treaty once and for all. On that occasion Cuban President Fidel Castro said that in the event that all Latin American countries adhered to the treaty, Cuba would take its place in that treaty. Chile, Brazil, and Argentina just recently adhered to the treaty. That left Cuba and one or two small islands of the Caribbean. The time came to fulfill the promise made by our commander in chief in Guadalajara and to join that treaty.

[Resillez] Bolanos, the decision of Cuba to adhere to the treaty was recently announced in a letter sent to Brazilian President Itamar Franco. The letter was delivered personally by Foreign Minister Robaina on this tour that he carried out a few days ago through several countries of Latin America. Why do you think Cuba's decision to adhere to the treaty was announced in that manner?

[Bolanos] Well, it was Brazil that started the initiative of the treaty. Even more important, Brazil has had a stance toward Cuba of strengthening and developing relations. A policy that they call extended arms towards Cuba. When Foreign Minister Celso Amorim was in Havana a couple of months back, during the course of the negotiations and during his interview with Fidel he transmitted a message from Itamar Franco in the sense that the Latin American community and Brazil were summoning Cuba to adhere to this important international document.

We believe [rephrases] Comrade Fidel considered that it would be appropriate during Foreign Minister Robaina's visit to Brazil to respond to that petition of the Brazilian president with a letter in which we established our views on the treaty but we made a step forward in view of this integration project and the will of Latin American people to be united.

It is important to point out that in that letter we established that even though U.S. hostility had not ceased, and even though a situation, which we have always identified as adverse, remained with regards to Cuba's adherence to the treaty, in a gesture of solidarity, peace, and toward integration, we would adhere to the treaty in the midst of this

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campaign of hostility, which has been heightened in the last few months, in the midst of constant threats against our country, in the midst of a piece of our territory having been usurped by a foreign power—and not just any power, but the most powerful power of these times and one of the most aggressive powers in the nuclear order; the only one that has used its nuclear capacity in history—in the sense that in this usurped territory over which we have no control is occasionally transited by warships armed and equipped for a nuclear war. As a matter of fact, we cannot, according to the articles of the treaty, guarantee that these weapons do not exist in Cuba because we have no control over that piece of territory which is ours.

[Resillez] Right.

[Bolanos] Therefore, in that letter we stated that if conditions do not change and if those adverse conditions continued, Cuba would have to reconsider its position and membership within the treaty.

[Resillez] Bolanos, speaking from the national aspect, for us Cubans who live within our borders, what repercussions could this treaty have, since so far we have heard your opinion from an international point of view?

[Bolanos] Resillez, it is very difficult to differentiate between the national and the international. I will try to answer your question but I cannot free myself from mentioning the international aspects.

First—because one thing is related to the other—we reaffirm that Cuba's nuclear program has peaceful goals. That is something we Cubans know. But it is important that this be confirmed for the international community in a gesture of adherence; above all, considering that we now depend on Western countries for the supply of components for this nuclear program. Before, we had the socialist market which was up to date on the articles or limitations by the international market of nuclear suppliers. Nowadays, the situation is different. Therefore, this will allow us, with the guarantees that Cuba's membership represents, to have access to the Western suppliers of nuclear equipment and to guarantee the continuation of the program including the Juragua Power Plant, which even though currently suspended—for reasons we all know—we do not renounce the possibility of completing and putting into operation.

[Resillez] Very well. I believe this is a good time to play a recorded interview with Comrade Andres Garcia, head of the Secretariat of Nuclear Affairs, who expresses his point of view on this aspect that we have been talking about with Vice Foreign Minister Jorge Bolanos.

[Begin Garcia recording] With the decision to sign this treaty we guarantee the international community the peaceful nature of our nuclear program. This will favor the development of our nuclear program because we eliminate any political conditions for the transfer of technology, so necessary in today's world.

On numerous occasions, through our top leaders, we have shown that Cuba defends and struggles for the elimination of nuclear weapons. In that sense, we see the term nonproliferation as a limitation since nonproliferation does not allow other countries to develop nuclear weapons but gives the right to those who already possess them to possess those nuclear weapons. We could call it a divine right of possessing those weapons by the recognized powers. We believe that the world should struggle for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the planet.

In that sense, the Tlatelolco Treaty meets an important objective because it is not limited to nonproliferation. Instead it is aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons from the region. That is not the case of other treaties such as the NNPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], which divides the countries into possessors and nonpossessors of nuclear weapons. In that sense, our country will continue advocating the banning of nuclear weapons from the whole world and not just in this region. [end recording]

[Resillez] I believe these statements agree with what you, as a representative of our Foreign Ministry, was telling the public. Would you like to add anything.

[Bolanos] No. I think his statements are correct and I endorse everything he said.

[Resillez] Bolanos, I know you have considerable experience in the diplomatic sphere. I remember that before assuming the post of vice foreign minister, you served as ambassador to Brazil. How long were you there?

[Bolanos] Seven and a half years.

[Resillez] Seven and a half years as ambassador to Brazil. Before that, did you carry out any other activities in the foreign service?

[Bolanos] Yes, I began my career as ambassador to Poland. Later I served in Czechoslovakia as ambassador, later I was in London.

[Resillez] Undoubtedly your experience allows me to ask a question regarding this experience that you have accumulated throughout the years. In international terms, not only in our region of Latin America but in the entire world, what reaction could there be to Cuba's decision to adhere to the Tlatelolco Treaty?

[Bolanos] I have tried to register the repercussion of this news on the diplomatic plane. I can say that the response we have received from the different European and Asian foreign ministries has been excellent. They have received this decision as an act of maturity by Cuban diplomacy.

There is a London Club with whom we negotiate, because the suppliers of atomic components for our programs are grouped in this organization, which demands that the countries that import nuclear components for the different nuclear programs be part of an existing treaty, among them the Tlatelolco Treaty. Therefore, they consider this an important step for them to continue negotiating with Cuba. There are newspapers, in Japan for example, in which the topic of Cuba's adherence to the treaty for the proscription of nuclear weapons in Latin America was front page news

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for two days straight. For a time it was given more attention than the news of the negotiations between Cuba and the United States on migratory issues. It has competed with this news.

Therefore the repercussions have been good. And the feedback we receive is very positive for Cuban diplomacy, for the CEN [nuclear power plants], for the comrades of the SEAN [Nuclear Affairs Secretariat] since this decision by the Cuban Government makes it much easier to deal with these suppliers.

[Resillez] Bolanos, undoubtedly the decision that we have announced to the world of adhering to this treaty brings about a series of steps. In other words, the information we have received, including from our conversations with you in the past, you said that the decision had been made and that a series of steps must be taken before this decision is finalized. What steps must we take now?

[Bolanos] First, we must sign the agreement. We must conduct an exercise, a signing ceremony, which could be done here in Havana or in Mexico, which is the country that holds the treaty. Once it is signed then it must be approved by our National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. After the ANPP approves it during one of its sessions, it is turned over to the Council of State so it can be signed the president of the Council of State.

But this treaty has an additional step, above the normal steps that characterize the implementation of other treaties. In addition to these steps, after communicating with Mexico to let them know that the treaty has been approved and sanctioned by the president, our president must then submit a statement endorsing the decision and the steps taken up to that time. Generally, at this point, a country must submit a declaration. In that declaration they establish their position. This means that it is very probable that we will submit a declaration with regard to the conditions and circumstances under which Cuba adheres to the treaty. I believe it will be in line with the letter President Castro sent to President Itamar Franco.

[Resillez] Comrade Bolanos, some viewers are interested in what you mentioned about the Naval Base in Guantanamo. In other words, some viewers would like you to talk a little more about the significance to our national security of U.S. warships possibly bearing nuclear weapons having access to this territory occupied against our will. Does this treaty in any way impede this from happening?

[Bolanos] No, because the treaty has its limitations. It is a treaty of the generation of the 60's. A treaty that undoubtedly was drafted under the influence of the Cold War, and in a region where the masters were those who were drafting the treaty. This treaty has the problem of verification. The United States is a member of Annex Document 1 of this treaty, where it agrees to disarm those colonial, semicolonial, or imperial territories that are under its control. But the treaty does not have an instrument to verify this. We know that ships and submarines equipped with implements of nuclear war transit Guantanamo Naval Base. We know that warships and submarines with nuclear weapons have transited and have been stored at a naval base in Panama. We also know of this happening in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Therefore, the treaty does not solve all these problems. There are countries like Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, which have expressed their concerns as they adhered to the treaty. We too join them in those concerns. One of those [words indistinct] we feel we should work to perfect that treaty so that the treaty meets the true objectives for which it was created in its entirety; not only for those who form the fundamental protocol, but for those who form part of the annex protocols which are all the countries that have nuclear weapons in the region, which is United States and those countries that form part of Annex No. 2 to the treaty, which hold nuclear weapons in this region.

[Resillez] Mr. Ambassador, would you like to add anything more?

[Bolanos] Resillez, I believe that with your questions we have covered the issue. I have nothing more to add unless there are any more questions from the callers. I would like to thank you and the viewers.

[Resillez] Thank you.

Decision To Sign Nuclear Treaty Assessed

PA0909182794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Report on interview with Jorge Petinov Martinez, journalist and public relations director of Cuba's Nuclear Energy Information Center under the Executive Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs, by Beatriz Padron; place and date not given; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Cuba's decision to foster Latin American and Caribbean unity includes its position on the banning of nuclear weapons in the region. This position was reaffirmed with the 29 August announcement that the island has decided to sign the Tlaltelolco Treaty, which prohibits the production and utilization of nuclear weapons on the continent.

Cuba's decision, as announced by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina during his recent visit to Brazil within the context of a Latin America tour, has special meaning for Cuba, because this decision shows island's commitment and faith in the future of Latin America and its interest in regional integration and the promotion of a climate of peace and harmony that should prevail in the region.

[Petinov] "This treaty prohibits nuclear weapons in Latin America."

These are the words of Jorge Petinov Martinez, journalist and public relations director of the Nuclear Energy Information Center, a department of the Executive Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs.

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[Petinov] "Cuba did not sign the treaty earlier because of certain existing conditions. We should discuss the situation that preceded this treaty. There was, of course, the 1962 October crisis. Facing legitimate national defense concerns and upholding a sovereign position, Cuba had to develop its self-defense to thwart a U.S. invasion that was going to take place following the Bay of Pigs fiasco and other operations primarily designed to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro. In 1962, in view of its failures, the United States decided to invade Cuba. This crisis, which became known as the Caribbean crisis or the Cuban Missile Crisis, moved Brazil to propose at the United Nations that Latin America should become a zone free of nuclear weapons.

"Proposals were made at that time and were discussed at the United Nations. In 1967, the Tlaltelolco Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America was made available to those countries that wanted to sign it. The treaty owes its name to the Mexican city of Tlaltelolco, where it was signed in a building which, by the way, was later destroyed by an earthquake."

This treaty, which establishes the first nuclear free zone in a densely-populated region, was open to signatories on 14 February 1967, but it was not until June 1969 when it could exhibit the signatures of nine member-states, enabling it to go into effect.

[Petinov] "At that time, Cuba raised some objections because the five-point conditions Cuba outlined during the October crisis called for the end of the economic blockade and all of the trade and economic measures the United States exerts worldwide against Cuba. This was the first of the five points presented by Fidel. The fifth point was the demand for the U.S. withdrawal from Guantanamo Naval Base and the return of this Cuban territory occupied by the United States.

[Padron] "These are two points that Cuba upholds even now, when it has just announced its decision to sign the treaty. For this reason, I would like you to elaborate on this.

[Petinov] "I believe Cuba's signing of this treaty is very important because it displays the wisdom of the leadership of the Cuban Revolution, specifically that of President Fidel Castro, who has been on television in recent days as a result of a crisis that is not as dramatic as the Missile Crisis of 1962, but that is indeed a crisis, considering there have been threats of a naval blockade against Cuba, that the economic blockade has intensified, and that Guantanamo Naval Base has been turned into a concentration camp for Haitians and illegal Cuban emigrants.

"I believe the Cuban leadership, which has remained calm and firm in its principles, has demonstrated wisdom and has proven that it knows how not to forsake fundamental objectives in the face of temporary situations. I think this is a temporary situation.

"At the Guadalajara Summit, President Fidel Castro announced that once other Latin American Countries had signed the Tlaltelolco Treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons on the continent, Cuba would sign it. Brazil signed it a few months ago. Argentina and the rest of the continent has signed it. Acting consistently in its policy of promoting integration, rapprochement, and unity in Latin America, Cuba also will sign it.

"I believe signing the treaty at this time is important because it shows which side is maintaining an aggressive and offensive policy and which side truly desires peace and negotiated solutions to problems in Latin America."

In the case of Cuba, the blockade imposed by the United States and the presence of a U.S. naval base on Cuban territory have constantly been denounced by the Cuban authorities, who have announced that Cuba's ability to adhere to the treaty depends on how these factors develop.

[Petinov] "I think this is very important, because under this treaty the signatory states are committed to not having any nuclear weapons on their territory, and, as is well known, U.S. ships powered by nuclear reactors and equipped with nuclear weapons often dock at Guantanamo, as well as in Puerto Rico at the Roosevelt Road Base in Ceiba. Cuba, in turn, is left in a position such as this: Guantanamo is part of our territory, and there is a base there against the will of 10 million Cubans. Therefore, it is contradictory that we take on the commitment to ban the presence of nuclear fuel and weapons in our territory while, at the same time, vessels with nuclear weapons are arriving at Guantanamo. For this reason, I believe Cuba has adopted a logical and rightful position in presenting this position on joining the Tlaltelolco Treaty."

Despite the threat posed to the entire region, and to Cuba in particular, by the proximity of a nuclear power such as the United States—a power that has not renounced these weapons, even though Latin American and Caribbean nations have done so—Cuba remains committed to conducting its nuclear program for peaceful purposes. The joining of the Tlaltelolco Treaty does not represent any change in the policy Cuba has maintained in this area up until now.

[Petinov] "Cuba has not signed this treaty essentially because of the issues I have just mentioned—the base at Guantanamo and the blockade. Cuba has not signed and will not sign in the near future the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. This is my personal opinion. This is not because Cuba has plans to produce nuclear weapons or anything like that. Our nuclear program is totally peaceful. The NPT is discriminatory. It allows large powers to possess nuclear weapons but prohibits other nations from having access to these weapons.

"Cuba, as a matter of principle, cannot condone this kind of discrimination. Our country favors total nuclear disarmament—the destruction of all nuclear weapons. This would guarantee an atmosphere of security for everyone. Right now, no one can guarantee that the only power in the history of the world to use nuclear weapons to kill hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki will not

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be deploying nuclear weapons at Guantanamo, at Roosevelt Road in Puerto Rico, or along the Panama Canal."

Cooperation Possibilities With Brazil Noted

FL1309022594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Milton Lima Depreti, president of the Brazil-Cuba Chamber of Commerce, today discussed the results of his visit to Cuba at the head of a delegation representing several Brazilian financial groups. Lima said that two rounds of talks have been scheduled, one probably during the Havana fair and the other in Brazil. These talks will open paths for Cuban exports to Brazil. Lima said that the financial groups visited several Cuban enterprises and organizations:

[Begin Lima recording] We discussed cooperating with several Cuban factories. Some letters of intent have been signed and should bear fruit this year. This involves the here and now and not the future. We truly came to do business. We are very interested in investing in Cuba, particularly in businesses that have already been established: cable, marble, and construction material, in general, [word indistinct] resins, paper, caustic soda, and, fundamentally, soybeans. We can exchange many things. We can sell things to you and buy finished products. [end recording]

Lima said that many agreements, including financial agreements, will be signed shortly after these negotiations:

[Begin Lima recording] We came with the intent of establishing a credit line for you, for an undetermined amount, with a letter of credit in a Cuban bank which we would be backing from Brazil. This is one system that is working. [end recording]

Lima said that Cuba will be a decisive geographic and commercial enclave in Latin America and that Brazil is very interested in a presence in Cuba. Lima stressed that he was sure that Cuba would prevail and that he anticipates that trade between Cuba and Brazil will surpass $300 million in 1995.

Diplomat Received by Moldovan Prime Minister

FL0909170494 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Cuban Ambassador to Chisinau Giogenes Hernandez reaffirmed the willingness of both states to increase bilateral relations. This wound up Hernandez's mission to this former Soviet republic, during which Snegur and Hernandez declared their intention to reestablish economic and commercial ties.

According to the document, the Cuban diplomat was also received by Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, Foreign Affairs Minister Mihai Popov, and Economic Vice Minister (Ivan Ciabuc), all of whom supported the President's revolt.

Hernandez held interviews with other government and parliamentary officials, and other officials of political and social organizations in the budding Moldovan Republic, in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

Decree Law 151 in Effect From 8 Sep

FL0909003294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Sep 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Decree Law 151, which modifies the penal code, goes into effect on 8 September in an effort to expedite cases as quickly as possible. The law was approved on 10 June 1994 and is based on reforms that have been under study since the 1980's, when it became clear that the criminal code had to change with the times. A viable and effective formula was adopted to increase the competence of the municipal tribunals so that justice can be administered near the scene of the crime.

Biotechnology Said Poised To Gain Share of World Market

PA0809162494 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 6 Sep 94 p 18

[Article by Jose de Jesus Guadarrama H.: "Cuba Launches Campaign to Conquer World Biotechnology Market"]

[Text] From its research and development centers Cuba aims to gain control of an important part of the world biotechnology market, the value of which for the next six years is estimated at $200 billion.

Products generated by Cuban research, which lead the world, are in fact open to Mexican capital investment although the first steps to negotiate licenses and the marketing of products, such as medicine that effectively prevents heart attacks or promote the healing of skin disorders, have been taken by Spanish and U.S. missions and companies.

Heinz Dieterich, director of the Latin American Emancipation and Independence Forum and researcher at the Metropolitan-Xochimilco Autonomous University, said that the achievements of Cuban technology "have placed various multinationals between supporting the blockade and striking alliances." The rate at which Cuban biotechnological products are being introduced into the world market seems to suggest that the "blockade is condemned to failure," he added.

This conclusion is based on the fact that this Caribbean country is the only developing country in the world that exports 30 genetic engineering products and three of those patents are registered in the United States.

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According to Dieterich, who is also coordinator of the "First Cuban Biotechnological Symposium in Mexico," Cuba has linear integration of research, development, testing, production, and marketing that depends on the same research and development centers. Moreover, the leaders and the vice health minister himself are researchers.

Despite the interest and opening of Cuba to Mexican capital in this area, no Mexican company has channeled investments in these areas, especially in pharmaceuticals. In contrast, a Spanish company is already using a hormone that promotes the healing of skin disorders.

A U.S. mission is negotiating for the so-called Streptoquinasa [Estreptoquinasa], which is produced only in Cuba and can help prevent heart attacks. Requests for patents for this product, which was already registered in the United States, were filed in 40 countries.

Cuban researchers, who have a production efficiency rate 1.3 times that of their U.S. and Japanese counterparts, believe that they will produce an AIDS vaccine before the year 2000, because they already developed three products to effectively diagnose this disease.

The price of products such as these (Hipertest) is between 20-30 percent lower than similar ones manufactured in the United States.

As for animal and plant health, Cuban biotechnology created the first vaccine against bovine cattle ticks, as well as transgenic [transgenica] plants that resist plagues that afflict tobacco, cabbage, and sugarcane.

Invertasa sucrose [sucrosa invertasa] is an enzyme that transforms sugar into fructose and saves between 20 and 30 percent of sugar when used as a sweetener.

Commentator Urges 'Forms of Encouragement' for Sugar Sector

FL1009131894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Commentary by Diosdado Maso; from the "National Radio News"]

[Text] The sugar harvest continues to be the main concern for the Cuban state and people in economic terms. Between the past harvest and the one just concluded in the last days of August, Cuba lost more than $1 billion. The main causes of these results were the progressive decline in the level of available sugarcane and the decrease in the industrial efficiency that in the past always characterized our sugar industry.

Today's panorama for the sugar industry, if changes are not made, is that of similar results in the sugar harvest which should begin by the end of the present year, and the harvest that is being prepared for 1996.

What is happening with our sugar harvest? Could it be that the workers have lost the interest that characterized them? I do not think so. I see the causes in two main areas: First, in the methods and control of the work; second, in the decisions. Apart from this, we must consider that this industry was hit very hard by the special period.

I talked about the methods because if we want to produce sugar cane we need to produce seeds of optimum quality and fertilizers. But if we do not weed the crops and those crops are not planted properly, even if we have the best seeds and fertilizers in the world we will not be able to increase the cane levels that we need.

I talked about the decisions because I believe that while it is difficult to pilot an airplane through the skies, or sail a ship to another continent, or perform a heart transplant, nowadays all those things—in view of Cuba's current conditions—are much easier than to work the crops from sunrise to sunset, without shoes, clothes, and without the required nutrition for the worker and his family.

It has been said, rightfully so, that only the sugar industry can multiply sevenfold the investments made in hard currency. Why then do we not utilize the forms of encouragement and participation with articles and hard currency that have already been applied in other sectors of the economy with so much success?

The men of the sugar sector have worked like nobody else over the past 35 years with honor. But today, they and their families are submitted to the same rigors of any other worker in the country. I believe it is worthwhile for us to meditate a bit on this.

Sugar Minister: 'Proper Response' Not Given To Castro Calls

FL1009145794 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Sep 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Cienfuegos Province began an analysis meeting on the current state of the sugar industry in each of the existing 12 sugar complexes. Serious delays in the recovery of the sugar industry, among other agricultural sectors, have been detected in this province. During the meeting, which is expected to last two days, Politburo member Nelson Torres, minister of the sugar industry [Minaz], outlined all the difficulties. He added that a proper response had not been given to the recent statements of Fidel and Raul in which they summon workers to fight for quality and efficiency.

Nelson Torres' remarks were necessary for the Minaz cadres, and administrators of the Basic Cooperative Production Units and Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives of the Espartaco complex, who were present in this first meeting. Delays in the weeding and the planting of the sugarcane have been detected in this complex, as well as throughout the province.

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Sugar Minister Chairs Work Meeting in Matanzas

FL1309184994 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] For the next sugar harvest, the Ministry of the Sugar Industry will seek efficiency in the production of the largest possible volumes.

Politburo member Nelson Torres, minister of the Sugar Industry, chaired a work meeting in Matanzas where he advised that the strategy is to grind at potential capacity in all centrals, and to eliminate, where possible, the sharing of sugarcane among sugar mills, and to achieve a short but efficient harvest.

[Begin Nelson recording] The main thing is to change our attitude in face of the problems and the difficulties; to confront subjective problems with pride and dignity; to solve all the deficiencies; and to seek alternatives to the objective problems. [end recording]

At the meeting, which was similar to the ones held in the eastern and central provinces, problems were detailed on by one. Nelson reminded workers that at this moment it is important to rescue the administrative order and the technological discipline at all levels. There is no time for sterile contemplations nor paternalism.

[Begin Nelson recording] The main problems are in the sugarcane, the production of sugarcane, and industrial efficiency, in rescuing with discipline and in conducting the rational use of resources to produce sugarcane under the current circumstances. [end recording]

The analysis of the meeting included maximizing mechanization of the harvest and guaranteeing quality of repairs; rescuing the best operators of combines and collectors and developing a plan to pay attention to their personal and family needs and to implement training in all areas, to train new workers and to retrain others. They also discussed adding a program of specific measures in each agroindustrial complex to prevent damages by fortuitous fires on the plantations. The instructions also include meeting the very strict discipline of shift changes, which should be personally supervised by the central's administrator. In essence, they were summoned to carry out a different kind of harvest.

[Begin Nelson recording] We must do it differently. That is our goal, but the results will tell if we are successful or not. Among the things to be rectified is to stop talking about slogans or goals that are not concrete. The strategy has been outlined and the main factor now is the effort that each of its workers is capable of making. [end recording]

Authorities To Contract Out Coffee Plantations to Families

FL1309231094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] A total of 2,000 families have asked to be relocated to the countryside. The resolution on the usufructuary distribution of land for the cultivation of coffee has already been approved. The amount of land to be distributed will depend on the number of people making up the family nucleus. Families will also receive plots for self-sufficiency gardens. Most of the land to be initially distributed in usufruct will be coffee plantations that do not have the work force to maintain them. Applicants who meet the minimum requirements will sign a contract with the coffee enterprises, which sets the amounts the new producers will have to turn over to the state collection agencies.

Negative Effects of Socioeconomic Changes Outlined

FL1409160794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 13 Sep 94

["Our Opinion" commentary by Ariel Larramendi from the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] It is a strange invitation: We are invited to undertake profound changes in our economic and political policies; most of all, our political policies. This apparently is a script from the centers of Western power, repeated by political experts, specialists on Cuba, press agencies of the Empire, and some gullible people in Cuba. A superficial reading of this post-war invitation elicits a certain fear that an emerging economic model—why not, if it is happening in Cuba—could demonstrate to others in the Third World that it is possible to reach a certain level of development with social justice and independence apart from the tenets of a so-called authentic socialism or the dictates of an imperial metropolis. This is the problem in its essence.

Let us reexamine a bit of our American history. After the destruction of the Guatemalan project, even in [word indistinct] liberated by Jacobo Arbenz in a mercenary invasion instigated by Guatemala's northern neighbor, this Central American nation has not achieved progress or national harmony. This happened exactly 40 years ago.

More recently, the Nicaraguan project, with its deficiencies, was eliminated by the joint strength of the Empire and its naive neighboring republics. Today, Nicaragua continues to struggle, constantly destabilized. Nothing it was promised, none of its aspirations have been fulfilled. In other parts of the world, there are other countries who heard the siren call and today are caricatures of countries. The new [words indistinct] of Cuba and the United States are now extending the same invitation to us.

The case of Cuba is different because Cuba has always been an obsession of the American Union [Union Americana]. If Cuba falls into this trap, hypothetically speaking, we would again suffer—multiplied by a thousand—the disgraces of the Platt Amendment; and the words sovereignty, independence, and nationality would be only historical references.

Let us not be fooled: For Cuba, the disaster would be to root out the dignity for which generations of Cubans have fought. This post- war invitation has a certain air of

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resignation, first through issues attractive to the ears of the simpleminded, later through the fundamental concepts that make up the core of a nationality. Let us not be fooled: What is at stake is more than the supposedly failed social and economic project; it is the very existence of Cuba.

Those who wish to return as victors will have their letters of marque [patentes de corso] in their U.S. passports. For those here in Cuba, there will be only weeping and gnashing of teeth. This we must not forget.

Parents Fined for Children's Begging, Vending

FI 1409145294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Sep 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] A group of parents of the Cardenas Municipality in Matanzas were fined, while others were turned over to the People's Court for the crime of contributing to the delinquency of minors.

Captain Lazaro Acosta, chief of juvenile crime prevention in Cardenas, advised that the cases involved allowing children to beg for candy or money in the foreign currency shopping centers, and to sell products. He added that 25 children were sent to behavior school in recent months because the parents were unable to control them.

Cuban 'Women Enjoy the Human Right To Decide'

FL1409141894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Commentary by Teresa Valdez from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Today I will discuss a difficult topic, which has temporarily reunited Muslims and Catholics in the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, and which will end [words indistinct], a topic related to human rights, regarding a human being's allowing a new life to develop.

This topic is somewhat alien to Cuba because we women enjoy the human right to decide whether to give life or not, and when, because abortion is legal in Cuba and directly related to health. However, the law is violated when abortion is performed using primitive, illegal methods, with herbs, or through other means not involving proper medical procedures. Then it is punished with sentences of up to eight years imprisonment, by the penal code, depending on whether the pregnant woman consented to the procedure, or if it was performed through coercion and with physical harm.

Abortion is not a means of preventing pregnancy. There are contraceptive measures well known to people in their fertile years, who opt for abortion only as a last resort because of the danger involved, especially to the mother.

Sometimes the cultural development of our society does not allow us to appreciate certain aspects on a daily basis which are nevertheless important. Our law regarding these life matters puts us among the countries with far-reaching views regarding motherhood and the [word indistinct], which are high indeed, reaching approximately 27 percent.

When we hear such polemic perspectives on these topics in international meetings such as the one in Cairo, it becomes necessary to reflect on the need for more social education on human reproduction, and the responsibilities that come with a birth or an abortion—for mothers, fathers, and close relatives.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Regional Forces Leave for Haitian Invasion Force

FL1409211794 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "Caribbean Evening News" program]

[Text] Regional forces begin the departure to join in the invasion force of Haiti:

A total of 100 soldiers from Jamaica have left to go over to Puerto Rico to join forces with soldiers from two other Caricom [Caribbean Community] countries in preparation for going over as part of the invasion force to go into Haiti. They got a pep talk from Prime Minister P.J. Patterson just before their departure:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Philip Hamilton] Prime Minister Patterson had encouraging words for Jamaican troops preparing to join the multinational contingent heading for Haiti. He told them that the assignment they were being sent on was for a worthy cause, requiring their participation.

[Patterson] The exercise on which you are being called upon to embark is for one purpose and one purpose only: It is not to install a government of the choice of external powers. It is, instead, to allow the democratic expression of the people of Haiti, expressed in free and fair elections, to be fully respected.

[Hamilton] Jamaica's troops are part of the Caricom peacekeeping forces who will be keeping law and order after the invasion. Just two weeks ago, several Caribbean leaders met with U.S. Government officials in Kingston, where they reaffirmed their commitment to UN Resolution 940. Mr. Patterson says Jamaica's decision to intervene in Haiti comes after pleas by the United Nations and the OAS went ignored by Haiti's leaders. He says at no time was the country pressured to send troops to Haiti.

[Patterson] We are not doing this at the bidding of any other country. We are not acting as surrogates for anyone. It is a decision to participate which we have taken as a sovereign country because we regard it as part of our collective responsibility for regional peace and security in the Caribbean.

[Hamilton] JDF [Jamaica Defense Forces] Army Chief Rear Admiral Peter (Brady) says the troops are ready for

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the mission. On Monday, they leave for Puerto Rico, where they'll link up with members of the multinational forces.

[(Brady)] We have done all the staff work, formulated all the plans, and now are ready to go into Puerto Rico, into a preassembly area, where we will bond with the rest of the Caribbean troops prior to going into Haiti.

[Correspondent] The date of 21 September is said to be the date when the combined forces are likely to invade Haiti. Although no confirmation has yet been received, officials at the Pentagon have acknowledged that a time of reckoning was drawing closer. [end recording]

A total of 15 soldiers from Antigua and Barbuda are already in Puerto Rico, training alongside the UN multinational forces in events leading up to the invasion of Haiti. They are expected to take part in the third phase of the peacekeeping effort. Jacqui Quinn Leandro was at the airport as they left and filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Leandro] It was a touching moment as Prime Minister Lester Bird bade the soldiers bon voyage on their humanitarian mission. He had previously left the sitting of the House to personally wish them well and to remind them that they were doing Antigua proud.

[Bird] We are looking forward, obviously, to ensuring that each and every one of you return back to Antigua safely, to your families, so that you can continue with the experience that you would have gained in Haiti to make a contribution to the development of this country. I wish you bon voyage. I have absolute confidence that you will live up to the expectations of yourselves and of the people of this country. I have no doubt about that in my mind. And I can assure you that we are all absolutely proud of you.

[Leandro] Prime Minister Bird also underscored that they would not be engaged in open combat and that he would ensure that their lives would not be at risk.

[Bird] As the prime minister of this country, responsible for you, in this particular situation that we find ourselves in, I will be following every step of the way what happens. And I can assure you that whenever I have to make a decision to determine what actions you will take, I will always make it in your interests and the interests of this country. You can rest assured that we will do nothing to expose you unnecessarily to anything which would jeopardize you. But, as a soldier, I think you know that there are no guarantees. And that is why you are in the military. But we have every confidence, based upon the decisions we made in the different councils and the lieutenant colonel has made in Jamaica, that we have done everything to ensure that we will be protecting your interests and the interests of all the Caribbean military multinational troops.

[Leandro] Meanwhile, Commander of the Defense Force Lieutenant Colonel Trevor Thomas said it was a most significant moment in the history of the Antigua Defense Force and he was sure that his men would represent the country well.

[Thomas] This exercise will allow us to move from an invasion stage into a UN mission stage. And that would the first time we'd be participating in a UN mission.

[Leandro] The soldiers bound for Puerto Rico boarded an American Transair aircraft, joining their counterparts from Jamaica and Belize, who were also on board that flight. Nine other Caribbean countries are participating in the effort. Preparations for a possible U.S.-led invasion of Haiti are continuing, which should be sooner rather than later. The aim of the United Nations is to topple the military stronghold of Raoul Cedras and to restore democracy to Haiti. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the soldiers from Trinidad and Tobago will also be joining their Caribbean counterparts in exercises which have already begun. As Paolo Kernahan reports, they had time for a last game of football, a handshake with the ones left behind, and then it was off to the airport:

[Begin recording] [Kernahan] Shining shoes, loading up, saying goodbye to soldiers who are remaining behind: These are some of the things that occupied the attention of those departing for service after the mainly American troops have invaded. A total of 51 men are heading for Puerto Rico, where they will continue preparation for the exercise which is to involve troops from throughout the region. Fair is not a word that comes to the lips of men who will be entering what will no doubt be a hostile environment.

[Unidentified soldier] We are more or less relaxed. We are, in total, what we would be expected to go and do. [sentence as heard] Morale is high. We can now go forward now into Puerto Rico, where we would be fuller given some more exposure into actual peacekeeping operations itself.

[Unidentified soldier] There are mixed emotions. Being in the Army, of course, you are expected to function as a soldier, and, in this case, soldiering is the main thing here. But you are leaving the family and friends back home. Well, of course, it would affect you to some extent. But being a soldier, you wouldn't allow it to, you know, override your thinking.

[Kernahan] The word peacekeeping may give the mission a tame image, but military officials explained that this can be a very dangerous exercise, as peacekeeping forces are often the ones targeted in such situations. This reality has meant a change in the training focus.

[Unidentified soldier] The normal training will be combat, offensive operations sometimes. In this case, we'll be trained to keep the peace, not enforcing the peace but keeping the peace. So, it is slightly different.

[Kernahan] The chosen men will be equipped with their machine guns and sidearms. The U.S. Army is expected to provide more weapons, vehicles, medical services, and food. The men have been training for over two months for the exercise. This has included language lessons to allow the soldiers to leap language barriers.

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One of the other scenes at the (?Cumuto) camp this morning: Insurance agents discussing policies with soldiers leaving families behind, one of the more somber images that bring the grim possibilities of the mission closer to home. The men were expected to leave on a U.S. Army transport plane, but this plan changed overnight. Military officials explained that a commercial airline operating out of Miami was chartered to take the men to Puerto Rico, where they will be based. At the (?air wing) of the Coast Guard, friends and family gathered to say goodbye and express wishes that all 51 of them will be home for Christmas. [end recording]

ALDHU Urges Support for Rebellion in Haiti

PA1509044094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0025 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Quito, 14 Sep (EFE)—The international community should support and finance a popular rebellion in Haiti and avoid the "historic mistake" of an invasion that would reject the fundamental principles of international law, the Latin American Human Rights Association (ALDHU) stated today.

There is a different and more legitimate path than invasion "and it is for the people to rebel against a tyranny that oppresses them," ALDHU declared in a communique.

The regional organization, which is permanently based in Quito, added that the imminent invasion will constitute "a serious violation of the principles of non-intervention and self-determination that have influenced international law and relations between states, up to now."

The invasion, "headed by the United States and with the backing of military forces from a dozen countries in compliance with the UN resolution," is based on the need to end "the serious and massive human rights violations being committed by the Haitian military who hold power illegally," it observed.

The communique added that "this move will contribute to greater human rights violations; it will place at risk the lives of innocent citizens who will be the victims of not only retaliatory actions by the military regime, but also of action implicit in an invasion."

The communique noted that the "supreme right to rebel against tyranny and oppression" is recognized in the Universal Human Rights Declaration's preamble and that, to this end, "the international community should assure enough material, financial, and human resources in order to strengthen democratic resistance organizations."

In this way, the communique asserted, the Haitian people "can defeat their oppressors and achieve democracy and peace through the legitimate path of a national struggle and not through a dangerous foreign invasion."

The communique concluded: "We address this warning to the democratic leaders in the region while there is still time to avoid committing a historic mistake whose consequences will inevitably weaken the fundamental principles that sustain international law."

Haiti

Jonassaint Promises Legislative Elections in Dec

PA1509032194 Paris AFP in Spanish 0247 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 14 Sep (AFP)—Emile Jonassaint, provisional president of Haiti (not recognized by the international community), announced today at the National Palace his "calm determination" in the face of "deliberate mistakes" being made by the U.S. leaders.

Jonassaint appealed to "the conscience of the peoples of the world" who support Haiti, and he urged the Haitian people to remain united, noting, "the Haitian people, after having been starved, terrorized, and traumatized, now face the possibility of becoming slaves."

The provisional president, who addressed the Haitian nation in French and Creole, announced "legislative elections will be held in December 1994, to be soon followed by presidential elections."

Urges Calm, Warns of Resistance

PA1509025794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0230 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 14 Sep (EFE)—Emile Jonassaint, provisional president appointed by the Haitian military junta, today urged the people to remain calm in the face of a possible invasion by the United States.

"The survival of the nation is being endangered for electoral purposes," Jonassaint stated, referring to the threats from the White House that it will invade Haiti if the military leadership does not leave the country within the coming days.

In a defiant tone, Jonassaint said Washington can destroy the country with its nuclear bombs, but he warned the world will be surprised by the Haitian people's resistance to U.S. soldiers.

Francois Says Cedras 'Must Leave Haiti'

PA1509002694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2338 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 14 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The coupist military troika of Haiti reportedly has shown the first signs of division since the coup d'etat three years ago, when one of them announced that the other two must leave the country, a local radio station reported today.

Chief of Police Colonel Michel Francois told Radio Metropole this afternoon that General Raoul Cedras, chief of the Armed Forces, and Philippe Biamby, chief of the General Staff, "must leave Haiti for the country's good."

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Francois, considered the organizer of the "attaches" (paramilitary groups that replaced the "tontons macoutes"), told the radio that "he will stay in the country if he is not hounded by justice."

The military troika, which in the past few days has remained silent and isolated, met at the government palace this evening with the de facto cabinet headed by President Emile Jonaissant, the radio reported.

The coupist leaders are reportedly studying recent statements by U.S. President William Clinton on the Haitian crisis, while rumors about an imminent multinational invasion or about forcing the three military leaders to abandon power increased.

"They will not be able to take it much longer," a European diplomat told NOTIMEX after listening to the radio report.

The general headquarters released a communique this evening establishing a curfew in Port-au-Prince between 0700 and 0800 in the morning [as received].

Citizens Beaten for Retrieving Pro-Aristide Leaflets

FL1409195394 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Topping the news: U.S. planes have overflown Port-au-Prince, dropping leaflets bearing the following message: Sun of Democracy/Light of Justice/Warmth of Reconciliation/With President Aristide's Return. The leaflets were dropped at several points in the capital, in Delmas, and in other neighborhoods. Residents called Radio Metropole to report the presence of the U.S. planes.

Pastor Vladimir Jeanty, leader of the Haitian Party of God, commented:

[Begin Jeanty recording, in Creole] Brothers, sisters, friends, military of my country: May peace be with you! A military invasion of Haiti will leave more than 300,000 in the shantytowns dead. They will have been sacrificed. God has shown what you must do to be saved. Stay in tune with God. Listen carefully, for we will be the ones to tell you what to do the day the bad angels strike you. The message to warn you has already been recorded. You will hear it, even if we cannot speak to you directly. Do not forget, it makes no difference whether you are civilian or military. Everyone living in the shantytowns is destined to die in the event of military intervention. Civilians and military of my country: Let us put our heads together, let us protect each other, let us love each other so that God will be pleased with us and free us from the clutches of the devil that swore to shed the blood of the Haitian people. We already hear the sounds of invasion ringing in our ears. The possibility of invasion is growing. Planes flew so low in some areas last night that houses shook. [end recording]

[Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole at 1130 GMT on 14 September reports: "Panic in Delmas: A small plane and a military helicopter have flown very low over Delmas and surrounding areas. Many white and blue leaflets bearing President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's picture were dropped. Those leaflets deal with the return of the president-in-exile, democracy, justice, and reconciliation. The aircraft made so much noise that the people of Delmas could not sleep last night. Everyone awoke at around 0200 to the sound of the plane passing overhead. Many people in Delmas 19 were beaten up this morning for picking up President Aristide's picture from the ground. Anyone traveling along the Delmas Road, from lower Delmas to upper Delmas, can see President Aristide's picture strewn all over the ground. Very prudent people stay far away from those pictures for fear of reprisal"]

Evans Paul on Results of Possible U.S. 'Ultimatum'

PA1409225494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2132 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By Lourdes Pallais]

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 14 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul says chaos could erupt within the Haitian Army if tomorrow, Thursday, U.S. President William Clinton issues an ultimatum to the coup leaders.

"There would be great chaos and a situation of disorder and madness in the Army ranks, which could lead to repression against the people," according to Paul, a supporter of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"Many soldiers would flee," according to the mayor, who was elected in 1991 for the same period as Aristide—their mandates conclude on 7 February 1996—and who received death threats from alleged paramilitary groups a few weeks ago.

"It is possible that the Army could unleash a campaign of repression and carry out massacres against the population, while a sense of solidarity among the people could also emerge," he added.

"Because opposing groups in this country—military officers and members of Lavalas (followers of Aristide)—live in the same neighborhoods, go to the same schools, and are even relatives, it is also possible that they might protect one another," he added.

In an interview with two reporters in a house in the Delmas neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian politician said he is against the invasion in principle, but he admitted a large majority of Haiti's poor support it.

"All Haitians are hoping for it. The invading forces are considered salvation forces. Many complain when I speak out against military intervention," the 44-year-old mayor said.

"It is viewed as a type of popular revenge. They want to see the military officers face the same fear they have been inflicting on the people. Moreover, the intervention is an alternative to a coup d'etat," he said.

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"The majority of Haitians are young and have never seen something of this sort. They cannot foresee the consequences. They are dying of curiosity to see warplanes, marines, and warships in Port-au-Prince," he said.

As for possible conflicts that the presence of multinational forces could provoke following the invasion, the mayor said he thinks that racial, cultural, and communication-related conflicts will inevitably occur.

"It worries me" that the forces might stay in Haiti for one or two years to support the country's reconstruction, he admitted. "There will be racial conflicts. There could be problems if, for example, a policeman killed a black," the official added.

"Moreover, it is inevitable that those who have seen their relatives die at the hands of the 'coupists' (military men) would want to seek revenge," should a multinational intervention occur, he noted.

"That is normal and impossible to prevent," he said. "Members of the multinational forces would be in charge of establishing order after the invasion," he added. [passage omitted]

Biamby Reportedly To Burn Capital Upon Invasion

PA1509014194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0033 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 14 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The Haitian Interior Ministry today banned all movement on the principal streets of the city between 1900 and 0700, while the high military command and cabinet members continued to meet. [passage omitted]

Some Haitian circles today spoke of the alleged intention of General Philippe Biamby to set fire to Port-au-Prince whenever the invaders arrive.

Circles close to Biamby, the trusted friend of coupist General Raoul Cedras, believe he has nothing to lose.

For this reason, they said, Biamby "might as well try to be a hero, repeating what Henri Christophe, forefather of Haiti, did when he burned the former capital Cap Haitien, rather than allowing French troops to do it."

Haitian civilians are asking what the "disembarkment" will be like, how they must treat international soldiers, and the extent of the resultant damage.

De Facto Ministry Communique on Traffic Curfew

FL1409220994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 2000 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Communique issued by the de facto Haitian Interior and National Defense Ministry in Port-au-Prince; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Interior and National Defense Ministry informs the general public and motorists, in particular, that traffic is prohibited on main roads from 1900 [2300 GMT] to 0700 until further notice. The provisional government of the Republic made the decision in an effort to reinforce the security measures already in effect to counter all foreign attacks. In addition, ships are prohibited from leaving their harbors, and planes are prohibited from leaving their bases without special permission from the concerned authorities.

Dominicans Prohibiting Porder Crossings

FL1409225994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1030 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Excerpt] The Dominican military turned back 17 travelers—including Haitian-Americans living in Haiti and European Union citizens from France—at the Haitian-Dominican border on 13 September. Although an AFP reporter traveling with the group had written authorization from the Dominican Foreign Ministry to cross, the military said that written authorization from the Dominican Presidency was needed to enter the country. Yet, one U.S. citizen got through just by presenting her passport. The Dominican authorities advised today that anyone who has not been granted permission to cross the border will be denied entry and have his passport stamped to that effect. [passage omitted]

Former U.S. President, Senator To Visit

FL1409191694 Port-au-Prince Tropic FM in French 1600 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The Pentagon reported on 13 September that the United States has dispatched 24 ships to Haiti, some already off the coast of Haiti and others on their way. As preparations for a possible invasion continue, we have learned from diplomatic sources that former President Jimmy Carter and Senator Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the Senate, are expected in Port-au-Prince on 14 September as part of a last-ditch effort. The same sources report that Haitian authorities have agreed to meet the personalities.

Regional Bishops' Reconciliation Proposal Noted

FL1409224394 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The Latin American Episcopal Conference and the U.S. and Canadian Catholic Bishops Conferences suggest that a national peace and reconciliation commission be formed in Haiti to gather the leaders of various sectors and institutions together to rebuild Haitian society. Cap-Haitien Bishop Francois Gallo has read a Latin American Episcopal Conference message. Correspondent Jean-Claude Larousse reports:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Larousse] In light of a possible invasion of Haiti, the Latin American Episcopal Conference and the U.S. and Canadian Catholic Bishops Conferences suggest that Haiti form a national peace and reconciliation commission, similar to the one set up in Latin America [words indistinct], to gather all sectors and important institutions together for talks on rebuilding society. Bishop Francois Gallo, Cap-Haitien bishop and president

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of the Haitian Episcopal Conference, read the Conference's note last night over the Voice of Ave Maria, the Catholic radio station in Cap-Haitien.

[Gallo] We now must do everything possible, particularly to set up a national peace and reconciliation commission similar to those set up in Central America. This commission would be in charge of gathering all sectors and the most important institutions in society together for talks on rebuilding society. Many other religious groups and people from Latin America and other regions would certainly support Haiti on such an effort.

[Larousse] The Canadian and Latin American bishops added, and I quote: We do not believe that a foreign military force can restore democracy in Haiti. We are not even sure that intervention is fair, moral, or likely to bring real democracy to the Haitian people. The foreign bishops believe that the embargo or economic punishment will not bring the expected results; on the contrary, it continues to be the source of much terrible suffering among the poor and allows people to continue to make money on the poorest people. The bishops wonder if the [words indistinct] if the solution to the country's problems is to keep it suffering and in misery.

However, such a statement comes as foreign planes and helicopters violate the country's airspace and maritime space in Cap-Haitien. Two helicopters fly over the harbor almost every night [words indistinct]. [end recording]

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Congress Panel Condemns Planned Haitian Invasion

PA1509031094 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Permanent Committee of the Congress of the Union has issued a political statement in which it condemns the military invasion being planned for the Republic of Haiti. It states that no government on the planet, no matter how powerful it may, has the right or sufficient authority to intervene or decide how to correct problems that must be resolved by the Haitian people themselves.

The statement, signed by representatives from all of the political parties, notes the need to continue negotiations with the government of that Caribbean island to get the military leaders to leave peacefully and to avert a confrontation that could cost many, many lives.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2118 GMT on 15 September transmits a related 175-word, Mexico City-datelined report that cites Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Manuel Tello saying Mexico still hopes the Haitian military leaders will step down from power. In response to a question on Mexico's position regarding the imminent invasion of Haiti by a multinational force, Tello said, "a political solution to the serious crisis" must be sought. The report goes on to quote Tello commenting on the Haitian military leadership, adding: "We still hope these people will reconsider and prevent the unnecessary and unjustifiable suffering of the Haitian people."]

Navy Reports 114 'Rafters' Picked Up in 2 Weeks

PA1409235094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1859 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Sep (EFE)—At least 114 Cuban "rafters" have arrived on the Mexican coast in the last two weeks, sources at the Secretariat of Navy told EFE today.

The last 14 "rafters" were picked up Tuesday near the coastline of the eastern State of Quintana Roo, and they joined the approximately 100 Cubans who have landed in Mexico since the Cuban Government allowed the exodus to the United States, a situation that ended this weekend.

According to the same sources, the "rafters" who landed in Mexico made it after a trip of several days arriving in motor boats, unlike those who left Cuba in handmade rafts trying to reach U.S. territory.

The Immigration Institute reported that the "Santa Clara" shrimp boat picked up six Cubans who were on a raft 80 km from the Mexican coast. Eight others, who were on board the "Nila," were picked up by the Mexican Navy.

After being picked up, the Cuban "rafters" were turned over to immigration authorities, who ordered that they be transferred to the Mexican capital where their situation will be reviewed.

In an attempt to help resolve the crisis of the "rafters," the Mexican Government last August offered to accept Cubans who have close relatives in this country.

Mexican authorities have changed their policy concerning the "rafters," who were previously repatriated to Cuba, following an incident with Miami's (United States) Cuban community prompted by the return of eight survivors of a shipwreck in August 1993 to their country.

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El Salvador

President Restates Willingness To Receive Cubans

PA1509033994 San Salvador El DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 14 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] President Armando Calderon Sol has reiterated his government's willingness to receive Cuban refugees.

"Although we have serious problems in El Salvador in reintegrating former members of the armed conflict, there is still room for the Cubans who are fleeing their country," the president said in the city of San Miguel.

"This is humanitarian act and a demonstration of our goodwill toward the 'raft people.' We are certain other Central American and Latin American countries will do the same," he stated.

The president made his remarks at a ceremony at which donations were handed out for the development of several municipalities in the eastern part of the country.

Regarding the donations, Calderon Sol said they are intended to strengthen the country's municipalities, whose development reached a standstill during wartime.

He praised the work of those men and women who during the war served as mayors and worked for the development of their respective municipalities, despite the adversities in which they exercised their duties.

He said: "As a former mayor, and today as president, I understand the work of the municipalities. This is why programs have been drafted so that in 1995 the 265 municipalities of the country can promote the development and socioeconomic growth of their regions and inhabitants."

Nicaragua

Ortega Urges Referendum on Constitutional Reforms

PA1409224694 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Sep 94 p 12

[Report by Jorge Katin]

[Text] FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Secretary General Daniel Ortega, during an appearance on Radio Ya, repeated his call to have the constitutional reforms submitted to a referendum before being approved by the National Assembly.

"The reforms comprise a step that will have long-term effects. Other countries hold popular consultations with the people voting yes or no on what they believe should be included in such reforms," Ortega argued.

Ortega asked: "What better expression of democracy than a popular consultation?" He replied in a strong tone when asked about the material costs of such a consultation: "Is one life worth more than the 50,000 left dead during the war against the dictatorship?

Journalists at the radio station asked Ortega several times why the Sandinist wing did not vote on this and whether he was willing to submit to Dora Maria Tellez.

"I am not interested in competing with anyone; that is not my intention or mandate," the secretary general repeated, arguing that he would have the duty as wing leader "to encourage understanding and cohesion among the FSLN wing."

Ortega said he agrees with the democratic election method, but he charged that others are not submitting to those procedures.

Commander Ortega censured National Directorate members, whom he accused of forgetting that charity begins at home, because they do not attend Sandinist board or assembly meetings.

"They held their meeting at the UCA [Central American University], and there is nothing wrong with that except that it is neither democratic nor unifying. I invite them to attend the Sandinist Assembly meetings so they can come and debate instead of washing their dirty laundry elsewhere, which is not unifying," Ortega repeated.

Regarding his impending entry into parliament, Commander Ortega admitted that this has caused various reactions.

"Some people hold the opinion that my arrival is risky, while others describe it as a fresh opportunity," he said regarding the assembly's internal stability.

Yesterday, Ortega sent a note to the assembly Board of Directors informing them that he would join the sessions beginning next week.

Ortega Appeals to Ramirez Not To Divide FSLN

PA1409224594 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Cesar Ubeda Bravo]

[Text] Daniel Ortega asserted today that the Sandinist Assembly resolution will not divide the Sandinist faction and if this ever happens, "ohers will be responsible for dividing the Sandinist Front, which will not help stabilize the country."

"I am appealing to Sergio Ramirez, Luis Carrion, Dora Maria Tellez, and Henry Ruiz not to promote divisions within Sandinism," Ortega said during a public appearance on Radio Ya.

Ortega admitted that the above-entioned people do not attend the meetings of the National Directorate and the Sandinist Assembly. "I am willing to discuss our differences," he said.

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Ortega criticized the people in question for not attending the party's meetings and "for not adhering to the results of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] democratic debates.

"Ramirez has shown contempt for the members of the Sandinist Assembly by asserting that his dismissal as head of the faction resulted from a suggestion by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo," Ortega added.

The FSLN secretary general said he was not aware that a Sandinist faction meeting was held today to elect a faction leader, thereby disobeying the Sandinist Assembly's mandate.

At 1400 the 39 Sandinist deputies will hold a meeting to elect the faction's new leader, who is expected to be Dora Maria Tellez. Her election will only intensify the FSLN crisis.

"This is not a matter of competition; the Sandinist Assembly's mandate is clear about having a trustworthy representative supported by the party's top body, the rank and file and the National Directorate," Ortega said.

Ortega added that there is no intention to form a new parliamentary faction. "At any rate, the faction will be formed by others if the Sandinist Assembly's mandate is not obeyed," he said.

The FSLN secretary general, accused by his fellow party members of being "orthodox and pro-vertical command structure," said no purges are going on within the party and Carlos Fernando Chamorro's continued control of BARRICADA will depend on the results of a commission's study of the party's news media.

"The truth is that this is not a purge. Carlos Fernando Chamorro was appointed through a vertical command structure by the National Directorate, not by consensus," Ortega said.

Ortega avoided answering a question concerning the article on restrictions contemplated in the constitutional reforms.

"This was discussed with a UNO [National Opposition Union] delegation in November, with the guarantee that a consensus would be reached with the other branches of state, which did not happen," Ortega said in an ambiguous manner.

Sergio Ramirez Discusses Sandinist Unity

PA1509003594 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Interview with Sandinist leader Sergio Ramirez by Jose Quezada in Managua; from the "Events" newscast—live]

[Text] [Quezada] We have Dr. Sergio Ramirez with us this morning [words indistinct] at 0630. What can be done to preserve the unity within the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] that everyone is demanding? This situation is being criticized. People are saying that interests are ruining unity.

[Ramirez] Good morning to listeners of the "Events" newscast. I think this whole thing about special interests is like [word indistinct] which makes noise when rattled and prevents one from hearing the true conflict. The conflict focuses on the FSLN role. The FSLN and Sandinism must serve Nicaraguan society. The issue is whether we can become a viable government alternative. I think that is the core of the conflict. The issue is not to champion a personal stand at the expense of everything else. This must be understood first.

Second, personal positions must be put aside to achieve unity. Unity remains essential. Sandinist unity, however, must not be achieved by eliminating the position of two opposing parties or by destroying adversaries' ideas. The only adversaries that exist here are men of ideas. Actions to discredit, insult, and slander cannot be used to build unity. We hope there will be a genuinely serious debate; a debate of concepts and ideas.

[Quezada] Would you sit down with Commander Daniel Ortega to discuss these issues in public?

[Ramirez] I think the question is pointless because there is no reason why I would not. Dialogue is an instrument that no one can do without. I think dialogue should prevail over a person's intention to exert authority to show that he indeed has authority; that he must punish, exclude, dismiss, and purge to show he has authority. I do not think that political authority is won or built by excluding, punishing, sanctioning, and disciplining; it is built on mutual understanding and agreement.

[Quezada] Dr. Ramirez, I think that this discussion is reinforcing the proposal for a referendum or constituent assembly, because the situation surrounding constitutional reforms seems to be difficult.

[Ramirez] There will be reforms to the constitution as long as there are no [word indistinct]; as long as UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies do not blindfold themselves. It is an illusion to think that they will further contribute to the division of Sandinism by complicating the constitutional debate under the belief that they are more powerful now [words indistinct] some UNO deputies saying: We have the key to the Constitution, and we will make the changes to the Constitution that we want. This is not so, because Sandinist votes...[pauses] I hope that Sandinist votes will continue to support the constitutional reforms. Sandinist votes are decisive. Without Sandinist votes there will be no reforms to the Constitution [words indistinct] because after December it will be more difficult to approve a bill on constitutional reforms.

I defended the bill on constitutional reforms because I think it is very important for the nation, because the nation needs to modernize its institutions. It needs changes to further strengthen its democracy. No one should spend a

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year trying to stop or obstruct constitutional reforms thinking that he is doing himself a favor. He would not be doing anyone any favors. He would be hurting Nicaragua and leaving a constitution that would allow someone in 1996 to rule under the premise that he may be reelected, that he may have his relatives rule the country once his term expires, that he may secretly [words indistinct], and that he may appoint the president of the Supreme Court of Justice. This is also a mistake because the next president of Nicaragua must govern with a Constitution that limits his public duties and that ensures a good balance among the state branches. The future of Nicaragua must be democracy, or it will have no future at all.

[Quezada] Commander Bayardo Arce said on this program last week that you were not attending Sandinist Assembly meetings and that this shows your contempt. Today we learned that Commander Daniel Ortega, as secretary general, called on all deputies and their alternates to a meeting next Monday. Do you think that you could attend or participate in a dialogue?

[Ramirez] I am willing to participate in a dialogue. I have no enemies within the FSLN. I have no personal enemies. It would be absurd to think that I have personal enemies.

Also, I think that even more absurd than this are the death threats and all the slanders and insults being made over certain radio stations. I think this is completely unbecoming of the behavior that a Sandinist must display. I have no enmity for anyone. I am willing to sit down to a dialogue at any time.

What I do not accept and do not understand is that FSLN bodies are being used as tribunals. They can try no one. Nobody can demand that I, as a Sandinist who wishes to always be part of his party and who will never have another party—I will be a Sandinist until the end of my days—be tried by a Sandinist body as if it were a tribunal, that I be expelled, that I be sanctioned, or that I be dismissed as head of the Sandinist bloc. I think this is masochistic and shows a lack of maturity among those who adopt these kinds of initiatives and demand that I be present when things like this are done.

[Quezada] Is there rapprochement to seek [word indistinct]?

[Ramirez] I would say that there is none at this time, but it could happen at any time.

[Quezada] Doctor, I think that...

[Ramirez, interrupting] I want to apologize for arriving late.

[Quezada] [Words indistinct] that on this FSLN radio station all Sandinist may speak out.

[Ramirez] That is true, because we are all political stockholders of this radio station. Radio stations cannot be anyone's home or a personal territory to which one might not have access. I thank you for this opportunity. I know that you are doing this with honesty and courage [words indistinct] that this is a body of the party, but it should not serve certain currents and interests. I think this is a good example of free journalism. Your prestige and tradition of having one of the most active media in Nicaragua would not allow the manipulation of this [words indistinct] to speak out here.

[Quezada] Dr. Ramirez, could we tell the Sandinist family, which is numerous in Nicaragua, that Sergio Ramirez is willing to come face-to-face with any Sandinist of any sector—let us call it the orthodox sector, as it is popularly called, that is, with Commander Daniel Ortega—to discuss the political conflict that exists within the FSLN.

[Ramirez] Nobody wants to [words indistinct] I have always been willing to do that.

[Quezada] This could take place at any time. We could an reach agreement over the telephone. This does not have to be a major event involving moderators [words indistinct].

Panama

Government To Support Ex-FDP Members Finding Work

PA0909171094 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Sep 94 p A-1

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] Raul Montenegro, government and justice minister, has said the government of Ernesto Perez Balladares will support hundreds of former members of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP] to give them a new opportunity.

Montenegro made those statements upon leaving the ceremony marking the installation of the Legislative Assembly Budget Committee he attended as special guest.

Montenegro said: "The entire government is trying to guide these people so they can find work either in the private sector or in the government, because they are Panamanians and require the entire government's attention to find jobs and join the development and success of the Perez Balladares administration."

Nevertheless, the minister said the day before yesterday while leaving the Presidency that former FDP members will be assisted, but they will not be recruited again in the National Police. He added they left the police corps never to return again.

He hinted at the possibility, however, that former FDP members could rejoin other security corps within the Public Force.

Meanwhile, opposition legislators have said the possibility of allowing former FDP members to return to certain state security organizations would pose a danger to the very government.

Olmedo Guillen, a legislator for the Civic Renewal Party, has said it is worrisome that former soldiers who fought

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against democracy and liberty in the country are trying to join state security organizations.

Meanwhile, Rodrigo Arosemena, head of the MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] legislative wing, has said it would be a mistake for the government of Perez Balladares to place former FDP members in other institutions that also deal with security.

Assembly Confirms Appointment of Attorney General

PA1109172494 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Sep 94 p 1A

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] legislators have asked new Attorney General Jose Antonio Sossa, confirmed in his post last night by the Legislative Assembly, not to use his post to persecute the opposition but urged him instead to take a strong hand against the "untouchable money launderers" of the national banking system and the Colon Free Zone.

Jose Antonio Sossa, former Christian Democratic Party (PDC) legislator, was unanimously confirmed last night in his post after a long session. The newly ppointed attorney general, who will serve a 10-year term, will take office on 2 January 1995, replacing Jorge Ramon Valdes.

Legislative Assembly President Balbina Herrera said that the yes vote for her former political adversary should go hand in hand with the promise that Sossa not use his power to persecute the current opposition, the way the PDC did when it had control of the Attorney General's Office during the previous administration.

Herrera admitted that her party's rank and file does not agree with the appointment but that the Ernesto Perez Balladares administration cannot keep living in the past, especially now that the unity of all Panamanians is needed, regardless of whether they are Union Club members, from the workers' sector, peasants, professionals, entrepreneurs, etc.

Jose Antonio Sossa, a 50-year-old lawyer, promised to restore citizens' trust in the institutions of justice through objective and impartial work against crime. "I have a huge responsibility and a thankless job ahead, but with everyone's help I will fulfill my mission," he said.

The new attorney general said that, in order to ease the minds of those concerned about his political militancy within the PDC, he will separate himself from the party and work independently.

PRD President Gerardo Gonzalez stressed that Sossa has to review the Attorney General's Office to remove officials who served in the past as instruments unleashed in a merciless "human hunt" of PRD members.

Opposition legislator Alberto Cigarruista believes that Sossa's appointment is a sign that the new administration has the resolve for the much-sought and necessary agreement.

During last night's session the following were confirmed in their appointed posts: Victoria Figge as Free Zone manager, Hecto Aleman to IFARHU [Human Resources Education and Training Institute], Eustacio Fabrega to Civil Aeronautics, Horacio Rodriguez to the Victoria Sugar Corporation, Rolando Guillen to INRENARE [Institute of Renewable Natural Resources], Pedro Campagnani to IPAT [Panamanian Tourism Institute], Rene Gonzalez to INDE [National Sports Institute], and Jorge Jonas to INDIAP [Agriculture and Livestock Research Institute of Panama].

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Argentina

Di Tella Views U.S. Embargo on Cuba, Miami Summit

PY1509023894 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2356 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Sep (TELAM)—In his address to the United Nations, President Carlos Menem will ask the international community to adopt measures to combat international terrorism, and he will express Argentina's firm support for the democratization of Cuba and Haiti.

The head of state will insist on a modification of the norms pertaining to diplomatic immunity for those cases in which it is proven that foreign representatives are linked to terrorist or drug trafficking actions.

Menem will also submit an initiative that will make the intervention of international peace organizations more effective in critical situations.

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella reported tonight that these proposals will be made by the president in the address he will give on 26 September to the 49th UN General Assembly in New York.

The minister indicated that the final declaration that was signed last week in Brazil by the member presidents of the Rio Group "contained a lot more than what had been suggested at the beginning."

Referring to Argentina's position during the tense discussions that preceded the final agreement, Di Tella admitted that "we did say that we would not sign any document if we were not capable of giving our opinion about Cuba and Haiti."

The foreign minister explained that "for Argentina, the U.S. embargo against Cuba is stupid and it only serves Castro to justify his economic errors."

The minister said that "the country has a very clear position regarding this matter: We do not consider it an interference in internal affairs when we speak about the lack of democracy and of the violation of human rights in Cuba, because the suffering of the people has to be taken into account."

This notwithstanding, Di Tella maintained that he did not share the thesis of those "who demand the lifting of the embargo as though Castro were a victim."

"We maintain that the lifting of this sanction must be accompanied by effective steps toward democratization, the respect for human rights, and an opening up of the economy in Cuba," he added.

He admitted that the date of the hemispheric summit, which will be held in Miami in December, "is inopportune," because "we would have preferred to have had it held in January 1995 when Mexico and Brazil will have new governments, and also probably in any other city with a much lesser taint of phobia against Cuba than Miami," he said.

Di Tella stated that he would send a note of salutation to Cesar Gaviria when he assumes the leadership of the OAS, and he compared the organization's behavior with that of the United Nations.

"Contrary to those who catalogue these organizations as instruments of the United States, we say that they contain the U.S., and the proof is that Washington had to suppress the temptation of undertaking unilateral actions," he stressed.

Di Tella said that "even the intervention in Haiti stems from an international resolution."

Regarding the possibility of an Argentine occupying an important post in the new OAS administration, the foreign minister said that "there are many capable Argentines," but that decision must be made by the organization's new secretary general.

U.S. Influence Seen in Decision To Receive Cubans

PY1409215494 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 9 Sep 94 p 14

[Article by Daniel Santoro]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella once again put the cart before the horse when he announced Argentina's willingness to receive Cuban refugees without having reached a prior agreement with his Rio Group counterparts. He did this when publicly announcing Argentina's willingness to cooperate to overcome the controversy between the United States and Cuba over the raft people by accepting reception of Cubans instead of first securing the support of other countries, as the rules of diplomacy recommend.

Although there were some telephone consultations with other Latin American governments, and attempts at sounding out Cuban diplomacy on this issue were even made, the future of the idea depends on whether it catches on at the Rio Group summit. At any rate, according to what sources close to the Foreign Ministry reported to CLARIN, Argentine diplomacy is only contemplating bringing "between 20 and 50 Cuban families."

Since it decided to send vessels during the Persian Gulf war in 1991, the Argentine Government has fallen into the habit of "going it alone" in order to align itself with Washington. It then repeated this practice with the now usual demands for "a democratization" of Cuba made by President Menem despite the fact that other governments—like Brazil, the leading Mercosur [Common Market of the South] partner—defend the principle of nonintervention.

The Menem administration publicized this stance on the Cuban immigrants following the visit of Thomas McNamara, acting assistant secretary of state for political and

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military affairs of the U.S. State Department, to Buenos Aires. The Foreign Ministry has denied that McNamara had requested this gesture by Argentina.

The political will to participate in the new crisis in relations between Washington and Havana was hastily asserted—as in the previous projects to receive immigrants—before assessing basic questions like how the transfer and settlement of Cubans will be financed. [passage omitted]

Three Lebanese Freed, Two To Be Interrogated

PY1509013094 Buenos Aires Telefe LS84 Television network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Excerpt] As you know, five citizens of Lebanese ancestry have been detained over the past few days in Misiones Province because of their alleged involvement in the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] bombing.

Three of the detainees have been released, and two have been sent to Buenos Aires to be interrogated by Judge Juan Jose Galeano [who is hearing the AMIA bombing case]. [passage omitted]

Further on Release of Lebanese

PY1509033394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2139 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Spellings of Lebanese names as received]

[Excerpt] Posadas, 14 Sep (NA)—Court sources have reported that three of the five Lebanese citizens who were detained last weekend in Puerto Iguazu were released today on orders issued by El Dorado Federal Judge Mario Hachiro Doi, while the other two will be transported to Buenos Aires to be interrogated about their alleged involvement in the bombing of the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] headquarters.

The sources indicated that the decision to release three of the five detainees was prompted by "lack of evidence" incriminating them in acts of violence.

The released detainees have been identified as Tark Jamil Jomma, Ahmad Mahmud Jomma, and Tarek Jamil Jomma, all of whom were arrested on 10 September near the Tancredo Neves international bridge, linking the cities of Puerto Iguazu and Foz do Iguazu.

Ali Husayn Audi and Hassan Abdallam Dayou still remain incommunicado at the 10th National Border Police squadron in the city of El Dorado.

Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is conducting the investigation into the bombing perpetrated on 18 July against the AMIA headquarters in Buenos Aires, asked his colleague Hachiro Doi to send Audi and Dayou to Buenos Aires. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Accords To Be Signed With Ecuador

PY1309215794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1434 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Sep (NA)—President Carlos Menem met with his Ecuadoran counterpart Sixto Duran-Ballen on 13 September to put the final touches to agreements on tourism, telecommunications, and cinematography, which they will sign in the upcoming hours.

Menem and Duran-Ballen first met privately at the new meeting room of the Olivos presidential residence. They were then joined by the Ecuadoran delegation and Argentine officials, with whom they discussed the involvement of Argentine road building and infrastructure companies in Ecuador.

The two heads of state discussed the Summit of the Americas to be held in Miami in December.

Menem was accompanied by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, Argentine Ambassador to Ecuador Jose Fernandez Valoni, Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Juan Paulik, Public Works Secretary William Otrera, and Tourism Secretary Francisco Mayorga.

Also attending the meeting were the following members of Duran-Ballen's entourage: Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes Pena, Ecuadoran Ambassador to Argentina Julio Paredes [name as received], Public Works Minister Pedro Lopez, Information and Tourism Minister Armando Elizalade [name as received], Air Force Commander in Chief Guillermo Chiriboga, and Comptroller General Juan Fauditi.

Menem and Duran-Ballen will sign the aforementioned agreements—which are complementary to the ones signed last February, when Menem traveled to Quito—at the Alvear Palace Hotel at 2000 local time.

The Ecuadoran head of state made a protocol visit to the Supreme Court at midday where he was received by Acting Chief Justice Ricardo Levene, Jnr. Justices Santiago Petracchi, Carlos S. Fayt, Augusto Cesar Belluscio, Julio Nazareno, and Antonio Boggiano were also present. Levene presented the Ecuadoran president with a book on Argentine ranches.

A company from the Naval Mechanics School and cadets from the Ramon Falcon School of the Federal Police was the honor guard.

Ecuadoran President Ends Visit

PY1409150094 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1259 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Sep (TELAM)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen ended his official visit to the country today. During his stay in Buenos Aires he met with Argentina's President Carlos Menem twice.

The Ecuadoran president returned to his country [as received] at 0940. Duran-Ballen took off from the military section of Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport. Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella was there to see him off.

Menem and Duran-Ballen last night signed a joint declaration expressing their "deep concern" over the human rights situation in Haiti.

The two presidents also granted special importance to the Rio Group declaration on the situation in Cuba, and

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reiterated their decision to cooperate in the struggle against international terrorism and drug trafficking.

The Ecuadoran president said yesterday that "bilateral relations improved greatly over the past two years," stressing the strengthening of economic and trade integration that followed Carlos Menem's visit to Quito in February.

During his 48-hour official visit to Argentina, Duran-Ballen signed with Menem an agreement by which the two countries commit themselves to encouraging their cooperation in developing projects in the areas of travel and tourism.

The two presidents also agreed on a bilateral policy for the exchange and promotion of cinematographic activities and the organization of film shows, festivals, and series.

Defense Minister Camilion Interviewed

PY1309190394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0056 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Interview with Defense Minister Oscar Camilion by unidentified reporter in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Text] [NA] When will the Armed Forces budget be submitted to Congress, and how much do you think it will amount to compared with previous years?

[Camilion] The budget will be submitted to Congress on 15 September. At this time the Finance Secretariat is involved in the usual discussion with various ministries on how to avoid certain spending or how to finance something. Meanwhile, we will continue to discuss the issue of military salaries with the Economy Ministry. This issue has been dragging on for some time, because there are differences between military salaries and other public administration departments. Military salaries are 20 to 50 percent below the salaries at the Justice Department, for diplomatic posts, or for other public administration hierarchical positions. We are studying ways to narrow the difference and find an adequate solution. Other budget aspects, such as operative spending and reequipping expenses, are also being analyzed. Operative spending will not go up this year, except for the needs created by the professional military service, which is not in itself a problem because the economy department has separated a special amount to cover the approximately 250 million pesos in salaries, social security, and medical checkups, which will mean a 5 percent increase compared to last year.

[NA] Are you contemplating ways to correct the situation of "double employment" that the Armed Forces have been suffering throughout the years? Can we speak of an excessive number of officers and noncommissioned officers?

[Camilion] The idea is to achieve the total professionalization of the military. We have no indication that the trend you mentioned, which in some areas of the country is quite strong, has been reversed. It will be something to take into account when the professional military service enters into effect. The system contemplates a full-time soldier, which will make it difficult for many to continue with their second employment. That element is very much at the roots of the need for salary adjustments. Regarding the excessive number of officers, there have been reasons for having more officers than what was desirable. In the past officers retired when they were very young, causing problems with the group of retired officers. Now they retire when they are 10 years older. This has caused an odd situation, because at present there are fewer corporals than noncommissioned officers, and fewer lieutenants than captains. A reduction in the number of officers should be considered a goal within a prudent period of time.

[NA] Is the Armed Forces reorganization caused solely by a financial problem, or is there a redefinition of roles?

[Camilion] Financial problems triggered the reorganization process, but the basic reason is that the end of the Cold War forced an overall reevaluation of military institutions throughout the world. The regional integration processes also prompted a redefinition of our relations with our neighbors and, in theory, provoked a drop in the level of risk. We cannot say that we face our relations with Chile and Brazil as we faced them 35 years ago. There is obviously a great difference, and that must be reflected in the Defense Ministry's risk philosophy and the Armed Forces' reorganization. The end of the Cold War also resulted in the disappearance of conflicts provoked by subversion and sponsored by the superpowers in the areas of influence of the other superpower. The fact is that we no longer have long wars or preparations for long wars. But we cannot think that because of this countries no longer run any risks. There are new risks, such as drug trafficking or terrorism, as we witnessed a short while ago.

[NA] Should the Armed Forces participate in drug trafficking and terrorism enforcement efforts?

[Camilion] We must analyze that problem. I would say no at this time, considering the way Argentina is affected by drug trafficking. It is different in other countries. It depends on how drug trafficking affects our territorial security. Some cities in neighboring countries are under the control of drug traffickers. In my opinion, the Armed Forces should intervene if the problem becomes a threat to our territory. Argentina is not facing that situation, and the unanimous opinion in defense circles is that the Armed Forces should not intervene. The issue of terrorism is something else altogether. The attack on the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] is obviously a problem of international nature and, therefore, not outside the jurisdiction of the military intelligence services. The problem is how do you move from legitimate military intelligence abroad into domestic intelligence, which is illegal.

[NA] What will be the Security Secretariat's role?

[Camilion] It basically has a coordinating role. It will be in charge of the functions previously performed by the Interior Ministry's Security Secretariat. It will coordinate the activities of security organizations in other ministries in facing specific security situations. It is a mistake to call it a

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supersecretariat, because its structure does not include the Defense and Interior Ministries' security forces.

[NA] With respect to the professional military service, some legislators objected to the decree eliminating the draft for those born in 1976, saying that a law is needed to eliminate the military service. What is your opinion of the case?

[Camilion] There is no doubt that the government acted within legal parameters, because the Military Personnel Law and the Compulsory Military Service include the possibility of a voluntary service. We have many volunteers in the Navy; they are professional soldiers. We have volunteers in the Army, as well, although very few. All these situations are contemplated in the Military Personnel Law. The decree does not eliminate the Compulsory Military Service, and there is always the possibility of drafting recruits to complete the required number of troops. However, we think that Congress should pass a law because, although not necessary technically speaking, the spirit of the current law is that of the Compulsory Military Service.

[NA] Is your ministry preparing a draft bill?

[Camilion] We agree with both the draft bills that Congress is currently discussing.

[NA] What do you think of the defense reserve bill presented by former Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez?

[Camilion] It is very important, because our Armed Forces have an almost zero capacity to call on the reserves. Other countries can call reserves in greater numbers than active duty personnel. We also need a law regulating mobilizations. With these laws the Professional Military Service will guarantee better reserves than those offered by the nonprofessional service. I think the issue has high priority. We must learn from other experiences abroad.

[NA] When will the Armed Forces start calling for volunteers?

[Camilion] The campaign will start during the first weeks of October. The contracting of personnel has to start at the beginning of March. We will sign up to 26,500 volunteers.

[NA] Will the drawing for the draft continue?

[Camilion] The problem is not resolved yet, but we think it will continue, because the Health Ministry is very much interested in continuing the medical checkups. This year, those born in 1976 will undergo their medical checkups. This is an interest that lies outside defense matters. It is a basic interest of the Health Ministry, and its cost is included in that ministry's budget.

[NA] Finally, minister, how will the Armed Forces participate in the Haitian conflict?

[Camilion] Argentina will send officers and noncommissioned officers to ensure the operation of public services. In this case we are talking about military engineers.

Joint Staff Chief Denies Resignation Threat

PY1509000294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1326 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Sep (NA)—General Mario Candido Diaz, chief of the Joint Staff, today categorically denied threatening to resign because no pay increase has been contemplated for military personnel.

Diaz clarified the issue during an interview with Radio America. He denied a newspaper report that linked alleged unrest to the government decision to hold the salaries of military personnel.

Culture Secretary Resigns After Menem Criticism

PY1209223694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0210 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Sep (NA)—During a direct telephone link over television from Madrid, where he will sign an agreement on an international culture fair, Argentine Culture Secretary Jorge Asis today tendered his resignation from his post.

In a tone reflecting annoyance, Asis said: "President Menem, please accept my resignation, which I am tendering to you over television from Madrid. I feel somewhat tired...."

Asis had presented a project to ban the use of words in languages other than Spanish, a project that was criticized and disapproved of by President Carlos Menem himself.

Asis said: "I believe this situation not only is unusual, but also pathetic. If you require my resignation, I am tendering it over television."

The controversial culture secretary pointed out that "some people" had told him that "apparently" he had been "disapproved" of by the education and culture minister and by President Carlos Menem himself.

Asis said: "I may be described as spectacular, but since my inauguration, my resignation has been at the disposal of both the education and culture minister and the president of the Republic."

In a message addressed to President Menem, Asis reminded him that he had been loyal "for years."

Asis also had a few words for two men who are close to the president—journalist Bernardo Neustadt and entrepreneur Gerardo Sofovich, who had challenged the culture secretary's project on various occasions.

Asis said: "I may have made a mistake. Bernardo Neustadt and Gerardo Sofovich may now be very happy. And, Mr. President, please accept my resignation, which I am tendering to you over television from Madrid. I feel somewhat tired."

Before unexpectedly tendering his resignation, Asis told the television viewers that "the end" of his tenure was approaching "amid a scandal."

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Implications of Constitutional Reform Viewed

PY1209225594 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Sep 94 p 11

[Commentary by Rodolfo Pandolfi]

[Text] A large number of politicians appear to have failed to understand all of the consequences of the reforms recently introduced into the National Constitution. Some of the sub-clauses are well worth further scrutiny:

a) According to article 94 of the reformed Constitution, the national territory is one district for the election of president and vice president.

The new clause therefore increases considerably the political importance of the Federal Capital and Buenos Aires province, while reduces that of the provinces with smaller populations.

Under the previous regime, Buenos Aires province sent 144 electors to the Electoral College, out of 610, 23.6 percent of the total. The Federal Capital had 54 electors, or 8.9 percent. So between them they had one third of the Electoral College. Now, with a direct vote in a single district, the Federal Capital will have 11.4 percent of the vote, and Buenos Aires 37.1 percent, equal to 48.5 percent together. While this is almost half in figures, in practice it could be more due to stay-away levels in the farthest provinces.

The most recent polls show this to favour the Frente Grande and, within Peronism, the faction led by Eduardo Duhalde.

This situation knocks out candidates from the provinces with few local votes. For example, La Rioja drops from 2.3 percent to 0.7 percent in its influence. San Luis goes from 2.3 to 0.9 percent. Tierra del Fuego from 2.3 percent to 0.2 percent. The repetition of that 2.3 is not an accident, but has its origin in the 14 electors which each district used to have.

Cordoba grows in importance from 6.5 percent to 9.0 percent, and so does Santa Fe (6.9 to 9.1), and Mendoza (3.9 to 4.2). With the exception of Buenos Aires province, the provinces with the increased influence are those where Justicialism always had difficulties.

The four legs of the political table (Buenos Aires, Federal Capital, Cordoba and Santa Fe) which collected 45 percent of those who had to elect the president and vice president, now have 67 percent.

And the four districts with the smallest populations (La Rioja, Catamarca, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego) go from 9.2 percent of the electors, to two percent, which is just about one fifth of its political clout.

And another thought: the percentage of voters is higher in densely populated areas where, at the same time, the priorities are often less immediate (health, education, ideological issues, discrimination, foreign policy, etc.).

b) Peronism will see its presence in the Senate reduced. According to the article 54 of the reformed text, each district will elect three senators, two for the majority and one for the second. According to the fourth of the temporary rulings, when one third of the Senate is changed in 1995, the indirect system will be retained, but with the third member for the majority.

Peronism holds 28 seats out of 48, the Radicals have 11, and the provincial parties seven. The Justicialist therefore have 59.4 percent of seats, which rises to 62.5 percent if independent Peronists Alberto Rodriguez Saa (San Luis) and Jose Octavio Bordon (Mendoza) are counted, while Radicals have 23 percent and the others 14.5 percent.

As from 1995 the Senate will have 72 seats. Peronism will take some 40, which is 55.5 percent, which assures a majority if the dissidents do not pack up and leave. The Radicals stand to almost double their chips, because where it is not a majority (as decided by provincial legislatures), it is the second party and will go from 11 seats (23 percent) to 20 (28 percent), and the Federalists will climb from seven seats to 12 (from 14.5 to 16.5 percent).

Two thirds of the Senate, when certain votes requires this, will need 48 votes, which is eight more than what Peronism can be estimated to get, without considering splits and defections.

c) Within the year from now there will have been more elections than currently we are led to expect. On November 27 the Radicals choose their presidential team. On December 5 the Peronists do that (and so will the Frente Grande about then). Then the internal elections will be held, which also include the choice of candidates for mayor of Buenos Aires.

On May 14, 1995, a president, vice president, a considerable number of provincial governors, and the Buenos Aires constituent delegates will announce the new Constitution for Buenos Aires province. Then, there will be run-off elections (30 days after May 14) and then the elections for mayor of Buenos Aires.

So, stand by for some interesting surprises.

CNEA To Continue Operating Nuclear Plants

PY1409221594 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 10 Sep 94 p 8

[Article by Cledis Candelaresi]

[Text] Following the public dispute with Manuel Mondino, former director of the dismantled National Commission for Atomic Energy [CNEA], which resulted in the latter's resignation, Energy Secretary Carlos Bastos disclosed on 9 September what is seemingly a vindication of the CNEA experts. Unlike what was the case with the other privatizations in the area of electricity generation, the CNEA will continue to operate power plants, despite the fact that the government will remain as a minority partner and will be in charge—that's right—of servicing the multi-million dollar debt incurred by the CNEA.

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In light of the fact that Agustin Blanco, president of the recently established Nucleoelectrica Inc. and former aide to Blanco in nuclear matters, is the typical low-profile official, it was Bastos himself who decided to break the silence surrounding the issue. The energy secretary stated that if Congress gives its okay, the power plants of Embalse, Atucha-1, Atucha-2 and the pumping plant belonging to State Water and Power Enterprise will be sold as a single unit, through shares in this newly created state-owned corporation, which will go public. It has not yet been established what percentage of the corporation's shares will be transferred to the private sector, or what percentage the government will keep for itself so as to be able to have a seat on the board of directors. Still, the idea is that the CNEA experts will continue to operate the power plants.

Bastos explained that the underlying reason for this idea is that, contrary to what happened with the thermal power stations that were privatized, the nuclear power plants are well maintained and efficiently operated. They have thus managed to obtain record-breaking levels of cash on hand.

Nucleoelectrica Inc. may obtain a positive cash flow when Atucha-2 becomes operational (at the end of 1997), provided that an interested party willing to invest 700 million pesos to finish the nuclear power plant is found. Meanwhile, its expenditures will include, besides operational costs, payments to the CNEA, deposits for the future dismantling of power plants, and the insurance policy. Bastos concedes that "we will have to spend a lot of money."

Even though the Economy Ministry is trying its utmost to release the Treasury from all liabilities in this case, the latter will have to continue servicing the CNEA's debts this year—some 244 million pesos—besides funding the work that is under construction, which will amount to nearly 380 million pesos. It goes without saying that the government will never recoup its fabulous investments, which for Atucha-2 alone exceed 3 billion pesos.

As in other privatizations, there is a question mark in the energy secretary's plan, which is the degree of risk the licensees or buyers will assume. Bastos is of the opinion that the most important question is the future wholesale price of electricity, which constitutes the corporation's main source of income.

The current CNEA headed by Guillermo Padin will be in charge of managing all the other productive activities, some of which are undertaken by mixed corporations like Conuar (in partnership with Perez Companc Inc. to produce fuel). The CNEA will also engage in research and development activities funded by Nucleoelectrica Inc. through the payment of a tax on the energy it sells. This contribution should guarantee the inflow of at least 30 million pesos yearly, which barely covers 50 percent of its CNEA's current budget.

The third component of this scheme is a regulatory body headed by Jacobo Beninson. This regulatory body and the CNEA—the economic future of which is not very clear—will answer directly to the presidency of the nation, while the power plants, which are the only ones to be privatized, will come under the jurisdiction of the Economy Ministry.

President of Firm To Replace CNEA Installed

PY1209224194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1132 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Sep (NA)—Energy Secretary Carlos Bastos has installed Agustin Blanco as president of the firm Nucleoeletrica, one of the companies that will replace the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA).

Blanco was one of Bastos' advisers. He will now head Nucleoeletrica, which will be responsible for the Nuclear Power Plants Atucha 1 and Atucha 2—still under construction—and Embalse.

The idea is to privatize the company after reorganizing the area of nuclear energy production.

Another organization that will be created as a result of the reorganization process is the Nuclear Activity Regulating Entity, which will be in charge of supervising nuclear activities, look after the environment, and protect people from radiation.

The third organization will be what is left of the CNEA, which will carry out the tasks not fulfilled by the other two firms and will be in charge of other pending topics.

Bastos said that the old CNEA had its own regulating department, which "did not merit any criticism" but the department's "situation was rather irrational because the same company fulfilled the roles of operator and entrepreneur. That is, it was supervising its own operations."

Bastos justified the role of the Regulating Entity, which will have its own budget and a tax contribution derived from nuclear productive sectors.

The future of the nuclear plants is uncertain because Atucha 1 runs the risk of being dismantled as a result of the limited useful life of this type of power plant, while Atucha 2 must still be finished.

The bidding documents for the transfer of these companies have not been drafted yet. Those documents will specify who will be in charge of the plants' possible dismantling.

Nuclear Agency Director Views Reorganization

PY1409184094 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] The Economy Ministry wants to finish reorganizing the area of nuclear energy production in the next four months in order to be ready for the bidding for the nuclear power plants Atucha-1, Atucha-2 (under construction), and Embalse, which are now grouped in the firm Nucleoelectrica Argentina S.A.

This was confirmed yesterday by Energy Secretary Carlos Bastos, who stressed: "The government will not prevent

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investors from promoting the construction of new power plants, although they will have to accept new regulations."

Bastos said the government "is interested in maintaining the nuclear energy production option," reiterating the official willingness "to finish Atucha-2 because it is a commitment we have assumed, although the private sector, and not the Treasury, will be in charge of investments in the future."

Bastos admitted that the government trusts that the $700 million it calculates will be needed to finish the nuclear plant will come from the private sector.

This larger amount needed to finish the job—at the beginning of 1994, private operators were talking about $550 million to $600 million—is also accompanied by delays in the construction schedule.

Bastos said that Atucha-2 will begin operating at the end of 1997, while the latest official announcements issued at the beginning of the year said that only two more years were needed.

Privatization

The company Nucleoelectrica S.A. is in charge of the administration of nuclear power plants as of last week, and 99 percent of the shares are in the hands of the Economy Ministry. The remaining 1 percent is owned by Water and Electric Energy (the Rio Grande Hydroelectric Dam is part of the group).

The energy secretary said the government has still not decided whether the state will retain a percentage of the shares in order to maintain a permanent presence in the nuclear area once Nucleoelectrica is privatized.

Bastos said: "We want to handle this privatization differently. We do not want, for instance, to do what was done with Central Puerto, which had a bad maintenance record" and was sold to the private sector as is.

"Operators showed a high level of efficiency in the case of the nuclear power plants (for over 7,000 hours of operation), which means that we do not need to change them. The same CNEA [National Commission for Atomic Energy] employees will continue to operate them," Bastos said.

During a restricted news conference, Bastos was asked how Nucleoelectrica would be financed if no one was interested in purchasing it. Bastos categorically answered: "If the company cannot be transferred to the private sector it will have to seek and find financing on its own, because the state will no longer guarantee its operations or give it money from the Treasury."

The new company, which as of 7 September will be headed by former Bastos adviser Agustin Blanco, will coexist until it is privatized with the CNEA, which will continue doing research, developing, and producing radioisotopes. That activity will be financed with contributions from electricity generating activities (in state or private hands). Those contributions will be in the form of a 15 percent tax, which will drop to 8 percent once Atucha-2 begins operating.

According to privatization Decree 1540, this tax must yield at least 30 million pesos per year, which will prevent a CNEA budget reduction if electricity rates or production dropped.

Meanwhile, the Nuclear Activities Regulating Entity, which will start operating soon, will be in charge of designing government policies on nuclear matters, the supervision of nuclear activities, environmental protection, the effect of radiation on people, and the necessary regulations for the privatization process.

With respect to the period necessary to implement the reorganization process—the decree was sent to Congress with the clause: "subject to privatization"—Bastos said the process could be sped up because Congress will establish a priority (in time) for discussing it.

Ariane To Launch Telecommunications Satellite

PY1409152594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1732 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Paris, 13 Sep (AFP-NA)—The first Argentine telecommunications satellite will be placed into orbit by an Ariane rocket at the end of 1996. The firm administering and marketing the European launcher announced today that the contract has just been signed by the group Deutsche Aerospace (DASA), the first constructor of the system, and Arianespace.

The satellite will be build with European cooperation under the direction of the French group Aerospatiale. In 1992 the Argentine National Telecommunications Commission gave Nahuelsat SA—an Argentine company created by DASA, Aerospaciale, and Alenia (Italy), with Argentine partners—a "license for the exploitation of a complete satellite telecommunications system."

The Nahuel satellite will be built for the Spacebus 2000 platform, and will weigh 1,820 kg on the ground. It will be equipped with 18 repeaters in Ku-band, and will provide telecommunications and data and television program transmissions to Argentine territory and to neighboring countries. The ground equipment will be produced by Alenia.

This is the 11th contract that Arianespace has signed this year. It raises the number of satellites the company must still launch to 40, at a total cost of nearly 18 billion francs (some $3.4 billion).

Bolivia

Five-Year Drug Enforcement Program With U.S. Proposed

PY1409154094 La Paz HOY in Spanish 4 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] It was officially disclosed that the Executive Branch has proposed to the U.S. Government a five-year bilateral

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drug enforcement program with regard to the eradication of surplus coca plantations in exchange for financial support for the balance of payment, with the purpose of eradicating sole planting of coca leaf in the tropical region of Cochabamba.

Social Defense Secretary Mario Soliz Valenzuela affirmed that the government has prepared a five-year drug enforcement program that will require an investment of $125 million in alternative development programs.

At this moment the government has $21 million to immediately start infrastructure and agricultural projects and to improve the living standards of families in Chapare

Soliz commented that the government is concerned over the fact that relations with the United States are still "somewhat narcotized," a situation which should be overcome in the next few years with the prioritization by the parties of an integral alternative development in the tropical area of Cochabamba and the regions where coca is no longer planted [regiones expulsoras] where there are areas of poverty and even extreme poverty.

Soliz asserted that it will be humanly and materially impossible to fulfill the eradication targets established with the U.S. Government within the next 26 days. He said that up to now only 3,100 hectares of the 5,500 agreed on have been destroyed voluntarily.

Therefore, he asserted that up to 30 September the country will have lost $15 million. Soliz said that the U.S. Government will only disburse $5 of the $20 million it promised to help balance the 1993 balance of payments.

In the meantime, Government Minister German Quiroga revealed that "it seems that the United States wants to eradicate the surplus coca leaf production in Chapare without alternative development, while the coca growers desire quite the opposite."

Due to this uncomfortable situation, Quiroga said that the Bolivian Government asked the U.S. State Department, for future aid in terms of the balance of payments, to take into account not only the volume of coca eradicated, but also the achievements in the repressive actions that have greatly affected the criminal structure of drug trafficking rings.

He said that last-minute arrangements are being made to the proposal the government will submit to the U.S. Embassy to complement the signing of Annex III of the aforementioned binational agreement referring to the eradication for financial assistance pending until 30 September 1995.

MIR Opposes 'Foreign Intervention' in Fight Against Drugs

PY1309234894 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Sep 94 p 6

[Text] Sucre—The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) is against "foreign intervention" in the government's drug enforcement program, especially in Chapare.

The MIR also charged that the FELCN [Special Antinarcotics Force] has excessive power, which even prevents the legislators from carrying out their investigations.

This was stated to PRESENCIA by Deputy Morgan Lopez Baspineiro (MIR), who termed "brutal" the murder of a peasant named Perez by an UMOPAR [Mobil Police Units for Rural Areas] agent. Lopez said: "The government is making a mistake in its struggle against drug trafficking. Although we all want to eradicate this evil, abuses must not be tolerated. It is not right to arrest the coca grower leaders and then invite them to a dialogue."

He criticized the murder of the coca grower and said that the government cannot "wash its hands" by merely suspending a policeman. He proposed that the Executive Branch assume the responsibility and truly punish those responsible for abuses.

Lopez protested the fact that the FELCN and UMOPAR have "too much power," which even interferes with the surveys and investigations carried out by legislators.

He said that as a result of the latest problems in Chapare, several legislators felt frustrated and indignant because the FELCN and other drug enforcement organizations placed obstacles, concealed information, suspended meetings, and mocked the legislators.

Lopez Baspineiro protested against a series of interventions by some foreigners who grant Bolivia technical and economic cooperation. He said that any aid is welcome but that the respect for sovereignty must be taken into account. Upon referring to some comments by spokesmen of diplomatic organizations in the country, Lopez said that "everyone must be involved in the struggle against drugs, but Bolivians must struggle with dignity and make sure that our sovereignty is respected."

He said that the National Congress must assess this situation, as well as discuss the polemic Law 1008, which is unconstitutional, violates Bolivian laws, and also allows for the violation of human rights. He announced that as of Monday, 5 September, the ministers who ordered repression in Chapare will be interpelated by Congress.

Official: Coca Eradication Goals Will Be Met

PY1509013594 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p A2

[Text] La Paz—Bolivian Social Defense Secretary Mario Soliz Valenzuela has confirmed that 3,100 hectares of coca plantations were eradicated voluntarily by July in the red zone of the tropical region of Cochabamba.

Expressing hopes of fulfilling the goal of eradicating 5,500 hectares of coca by the end of September 1994—as established in the bilateral agreement Bolivia signed with the United States—Soliz said the government "is talking with coca growers' unions and organizations in an effort to eradicate surplus plantations."

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Soliz said the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN) and the National Coca Control Directorate (DINACO) have reported that during June and July "significant surplus coca plantations" were eradicated in a coordinated effort with coca growers.

Soliz said: "We eliminated some 154 hectares in June, and that figure was doubled or even tripled in July." He added that between August 1993 and July 1994 the Bolivian Government eliminated 3,100 hectares of illegal coca plantations.

Soliz recalled that by 31 September, Bolivia must "sweep away" close to 5,500 hectares if it is to receive a disbursement of $20 billion to aid our balance of payments.

Soliz said every effort will be made to fulfill the goals agreed with the United States.

He said that a sign of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's political will is the fact that he convinced 1,800 Chapare coca producers to eliminate 1,200 hectares in the next few days in the "Isiboro Secure" region in exchange for a government promise to give them a similar amount of land in "Palos Blancos," between La Paz and Beni.

Soliz stated: "I believe we will eradicate the area established in the agreement with the United States because it is a government principle to fulfill and honor its commitments. No efforts have been spared in its fulfillment."

If the goal is not fulfilled by the end of the month, he said the United States will only disburse a sum commensurate to the "area eliminated" by that date.

Soliz said: "This is established in the agreement and falls within the framework of agreements reached by the two governments in the interdiction, eradication, and economic cooperation field by the organizations that fight drug trafficking."

Health Clinic Cooperation Accord Signed With Cuba

PY1409222594 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 4 Sep 94 p A6

[Text] San Simon University, UMSS, and the Cuban Foreign Ministry have signed an agreement for the joint exploitation of a university clinic through the establishment of a mixed health company that will operate in Cochabamba.

The agreement was signed on the occasion of Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina's visit. Robaina visited the San Simon campus, where he expressed a desire to cooperate in areas that need assistance.

The University Clinic, which is part of an UMSS social security project and is under construction, aims to render efficient, inexpensive, and direct medical assistance to those under regular coverage and to the public in general.

In view of the international prestige of the Cuban public health services, sought after mainly by various Latin American countries, the UMSS and the Cuban Government thought it would be appropriate to establish a branch in Cochabamba.

The objective of the mixed Bolivian-Cuban health company is to assist patients who can only be treated in Cuba or abroad, for lack of equipment and trained personnel in Bolivia.

According to this agreement, the Cuban Government commits itself to establishing an institution for the study and drafting of programs to be implemented by University Social Security, and to supply health equipment and trained professionals.

In addition to the medical services it offers to those it covers, the UMSS commits itself to placing at the disposal of the Cuban Government the infrastructure, equipment, and human resources needed for operating the mixed company.

The agreement was signed by UMSS Rector Tonchy Marinkovic Uzqueda; Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina; University Social Insurance Manager Jaime Pozo Muriel; and Social Security President Gaston Teran Rivas.

COB Rejects Government Proposals, Orders 48-Hour Strike

PY1409153594 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] As we announced earlier, the assembly of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] just concluded. Amalia Pando, who attended the meeting, has a report for us.

[Begin Pando recording] After a meeting that lasted for three and one-half hours, the COB leadership answered the government proposal for a social truce and dialogue with a definite no. On the contrary, the COB approved by majority a 48-hour strike for 15 and 16 September. The Teachers Union will hold a strike on 14 September and they also plan to hold a town meeting the same day in the afternoon. The COB assembly was held in an environment of more radical support for the coca growers and of repudiation of the government and its reforms. The COB will hold another assembly at 1000 on 14 September to report on the informal talks to be held by COB leaders with government officials tonight. But these leaders were not authorized to resume the talks with the government. It was reported that the mobilizations on 14 September are in preparation for the entry of a column of coca growers from Chapare who are approaching La Paz. [end recording]

Brazil

Visiting Haitian Minister on 'Imminent' Invasion

PY1409145494 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2230 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Sep (AE)—Claudette Werleigh, foreign minister of the deposed Haitian Government, can see no

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other solution to her country's political and economic crisis than a U.S. military intervention. Werleigh came to Brazil with a group of volunteers from Pax Christi, an international Catholic organization working to promote peace around the world. She said: "The situation in my country has reached such a point that any other solution appears to be unfeasible. An invasion is imminent."

Werleigh said that it would be very difficult to guarantee Aristide's return to Haiti in the wake of an intervention. She said: "It would be very important for the suffering Haitian people that President Aristide return to our country, but the situation is very difficult." She conveyed her indignation over the Haitian people's situation under the military dictatorship. She added: "A minority, a very small percentage of the population, today holds both political and economic power in Haiti, while the great majority of the people live in total poverty."

Werleigh commented on the various accords made by Aristide with the military regime, which reneged on all of them; on the economic sanctions imposed on Haiti; and on the people's poverty. Despite all this she believes that the Haitian people deserve some respect from the international community. She said: "For the first and only time the history of our country, the world is regarding Haitians as people and as citizens who deserve to lead a decent life."

Finance Minister Attends Coffee Committee Meeting

PY1509004994 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Ciro Gomes participated for the first time in a meeting of the Brazilian Coffee Committee today. During the meeting he announced that the government intends to sell some of its coffee regulating stocks to raise 261 million reals for the National Treasury. It has also been decided to sell by auction 194,000 sacks of the 2.4 million sacks authorized by the National Monetary Council. The government objective is to maintain coffee market prices. [passage omitted]

'Concern' Expressed on Argentine Nuclear Plants

PY1509032394 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 12 Sep 94 p 3

[By Maria Helena Tachinardi]

[Text] A Brazilian diplomatic source has reported that the prospects with regard to privatization of Argentine nuclear plants—Atucha-3, Rio Tercero—are of concern to the Brazilian authorities because the attributes of the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) will be different from those of the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN).

A few days ago, the Argentine Government declared that all the nuclear units in the country may be privatized. As a result, the policy adopted by the two countries regarding mutual inspections may be affected. An Argentine diplomat said that the CNEA role will be redefined.

Some years ago, Brazil and Argentina decided to implement integration in the nuclear area also and signed several agreements to this effect. Among them is the quadripartite safeguards agreement that includes the IAEA, which is headquartered in Vienna. They also created the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC).

The Brazilian Government created the Commission for the Establishment of the Common Market of the South [Comissao de Origem do Mercosul] which, according to a resolution published on Monday, 5 September, "will be in charge of overseeing the correct implementation of the rules that created the Mercosur during the transition stage to the Unified Customs System."

The new commission will be made up of officials from the Finance Ministry; the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry; and the Foreign Ministry. According to Brazilian Ambassador Jose Arthur Denot Medeiros, the new measure is important to prevent triangular trade operations with an overall deregulation of foreign trade among Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay at the end of the year.

Amorim, Bolivia's Aranibar Sign Joint Communique

PY1409220494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Sep (EFE)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar today signed an agreement establishing a mechanism for political consultations and another reorganizing—with a view to making it more dynamic—the Brazilian-Bolivian Standing Mixed Commission for Coordination.

The mechanism for political consultations seeks to strengthen bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation through periodical meetings among high level officials of the two Foreign Ministries.

The second agreement reorganizes the Brazilian-Bolivian Standing Mixed Commission for Cooperation, which was created in 1988. It seeks to make it more dynamic, to strengthen cooperation, and to discuss bilateral issues.

The signing of the two agreements concludes Aranibar's two-day visit to Brasilia, during which he emphasized that the boost in bilateral relations is proof of the Brazilian and Bolivian political decision to strengthen Latin American integration.

Aranibar, a 52-year-old sociologist and attorney, met with Brazilian Chief Justice Otavio Gallotti who promised that the Federal Supreme Court [STF] will rule within a month on the Bolivian petition to extradite 62-year-old Luis Garcia Meza, a former Bolivian general and president.

Aranibar said: "During a friendly conversation with the chief justice, I conveyed to him the confidence of the people and government of Bolivia in the Brazilian institutional mechanisms and justice system."

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Garcia Meza ruled Bolivia between 1980 and 1981. He has been in custody at a military institution in Brasilia since March, awaiting the STF decision on the extradition request, which is expected in the next few weeks.

The two foreign ministers issued a joint communique in which they state that negotiations toward establishing an association between Bolivia and the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) are in keeping with the objective of setting up a regional bloc with the other South American member countries of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI).

Mexico is the only ALADI member excluded in these guidelines—having signed an agreement this year with the United States and Canada to establish NAFTA.

They reaffirm the significance of cooperation within the River Plate Basin and call for the reactivation of the Intergovernmental Committee, for enhancing the Financial Fund for the Development of the Basin, and for a meeting of foreign ministers in the future.

They assign priority to the Paraguay-Parana waterway project, emphasizing its role in promoting physical and economic integration among South American countries. They express interest in the talks to be held by Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, and Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

The tripartite presidential meeting will be held on 24-25 September in Puerto Suarez (Bolivia). It will focus on a proposal to create a corridor consisting of various transportation facilities that will link the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Aranibar and Amorim vow to work to prevent and fight the production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs, which they consider "a serious threat to the stability of the democratic system, to governability, and to the wellbeing of our peoples."

In light of their legal merits and their contribution to the cause of peace, they believe Latin America and the Caribbean should be considered within the expansion of permanent and nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council.

Brazil is seeking one of the permanent seats that may be created within the UN Security Council.

Regarding the Summit of the Americas—scheduled for 9-11 December in Miami—the two ministers describe as "timely" the call by U.S. President Bill Clinton, and state that the occasion will be conducive for examining political and economic relations among countries of the Americas.

First Mining, Geology Accord Signed With Cuba

PY1409235994 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 12 Sep 94 p 16

[Article by Sergio Danilo from Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] Parallel to the Rio Group Summit which gathered diplomats and executives from 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Cuba have signed their first bilateral agreement on mining and metallurgy. Samir Nahass, the international relations superintendent of the Brazilian Mineral Resources Prospecting Company (CPRM), Cuba representatives, and officials of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) all signed the first agreement between the two countries on the mineral field.

Nahass said the Brazilian-Cuban agreement establishes special bilateral projects for the mineral sector, adding that regional projects can be jointly conducted. For many years, Cuba received technological assistance from the former USSR in mining and human resources.

Cuba has reserves of 23 million tonnes of nickel ore (the largest in the world) and an important production of this mineral. Brazilian companies are interested in joint projects in this area because there are reserves of this mineral in the states of Minas Gerais and Goias.

The agreement recommends that the parties should seek financial resources abroad for these projects. Within 90 days, a committee of technicians of both countries will be formed to analyze Brazilian and Cuban geology. The agreement opens opportunities for research and development into services in geology, mining, informatics, and the environment. Rendering services and drafting projects in hydrology and mining engineering are also included in the agreement.

River, Highway Transport Studied With Venezuela

PY0909015194 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] In Brasilia today, Brazilian Transport Minister Rubens Bayma Denys and his Venezuelan counterpart Ciro Alvarez opened the first meeting of the Brazil-Venezuela working group on transportation and communications.

The agenda of the meeting, which will end tomorrow, includes paving and completion of the BR-174 highway joining Manaus and Santa Elena, on the border between the two countries. The agenda also includes passenger and cargo highway transportation.

Another major topic on the agenda is the interconnection of the Amazonas and Orinoco river basins, to improve navigability of the rivers in the region.

Minister Bayma Denys believes the Brazil-Venezuela highway and river connection will promote bilateral relations even further, and will promote progress in southern Venezuela and northern Brazil.

Stepanenko: PRC Trip 'Yielded Positive Results'

PY1009013794 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The PRC may use a Brazilian consortium in building the world's largest hydroelectric powerplant.

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The PRC Government has already said that it would like a consortium of 15 Brazilian enterprises to participate in the construction of the hydroelectric powerplant.

The consortium submitted to a PRC committee a proposal for transferring technology and rendering technical assistance for construction of the Three Gorges hydroelectric powerplant.

The Chinese Government was impressed by the proposal, because of the quality of the work, which will be discussed in three other meetings scheduled for this weekend. The proposal can guarantee participation of the consortium in the call for international offers.

Brazil's experience in the construction of the Itaipu hydroelectric powerplant, which is thus far the world's largest powerplant, is Brazil's great advantage in the negotiations for construction of the Three Gorges.

Mines and Energy Minister Alexis Stepanenko said his mission to the PRC has yielded positive results. In addition to the talks on the project, the minister signed five cooperation agreements between Brazil and the PRC.

Cardoso on State of Economy, Real Plan

BR1509074694 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 5 Sep 94 pp 2-3

[Interview with presidential candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso by Luis Recena; date and place not given: "Inflation a Tax"; first two paragraphs are DIARIO DE NOTICIAS introduction]

[Text] At the age of 63, Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso is about to become a completely happy man. He is an internationally renowned intellectual, a politician with a brilliant career behind him, a minister remembered for his two terms in office, a friend and adviser of President Itamar Franco, and last a presidential candidate who has succeeded in completely overturning the opinion polls.

Apart from this, he speaks well, has an inexhaustible capacity for forming alliances that yield votes, and is the author of an economic stabilization plan—the new Real Plan—that most Brazilians like.

[Recena] Some months after the introduction of the economic plan, what can you say about Brazil's inflation?

[Cardoso] I have always said that Brazil's inflation is the most terrible tax that the workers and poor people have had to pay. Ultimately the wealthiest people resorted to the financial market and speculative investments in order to defend themselves against inflation. The middle class sought help through savings. Only the workers and the poor had no way to defend themselves.

While a few people profited, we were all the losers. Not only in terms of money, but also, and worse, in terms of confidence in our ability to set our house in order. The economy ceased to be regarded as a field of opportunity, of creative activity. It became an arena of struggle in which the search for individual advantage prevailed.

This has ended, and the Brazilian people have understood it clearly. Inflation exacerbated the conflict over distribution, raising tensions between different sectors. Each sector of the economy saw only its own short-term interests. The Real Plan broke the back of inflation. Prices are stable or falling. There has been no confiscation of current accounts and savings, no tricks or bugbears, as in the past. People on lower incomes are already starting to purchase again, as is shown in trade on the outskirts of the major cities. But it is not enough to stabilize the economy. Now we must attack the structural problems.

[Recena] On what basis do you say that the Brazilian people will be better off at the end of 1994 than they have been for some time?

[Cardoso] The Brazilians will have a year's end without inflation, with an economy returning to moderate growth, and the country will have a new course after the elections.

[Recena] What do think are the chief merits of the Real Plan?

[Cardoso] We now have a strong currency, which protects incomes and savings. It is strong because it has the solid backing of our reserves. And before introducing the real we set the government's accounts in order.

Apart from that, circumstances are much more favorable than in the past. The economy is growing at a rate of 4-5 percent a year. Our industries have unused capacity and have been able to respond immediately to increased demand, without any interruption in supplies. This year we had the largest harvest in our history, with 76 million tonnes of grain.

We have reserves of over $40 billion which, apart from strengthening the real, permit the necessary imports to keep prices low. The renegotiation of the foreign debt has again made Brazil an attractive place for investments.

[Recena] What are the main difficulties with the Real Plan?

[Cardoso] The main difficulty is to maintain a balanced budget, to withstand the pressure to increase spending. Until the next president enters office the government cannot spend more than it brings in. It must also pursue a stringent monetary policy and be answerable for the spending of every cent of public money.

Short and Medium Term

[Recena] What new measures should be adopted in the short and medium term to improve the plan?

[Cardoso] In the short term my government commitments are employment, agriculture, security, education, and health. Only a sustained recovery of growth, together with the creation of new jobs, will eliminate poverty and inequality. Furthermore, it has become a taunt that there is still starvation in Brazil, one of the world's major food producers.

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Also in the short term, if I am elected president I will propose to Congress and to society a timetable of changes to the constitution that will embrace the reorganization of the state; the strengthening of the federation; and a broad reform of the contributions, taxation, and social security system, through its modernization and simplification. I will also propose that flexibility be introduced to the state monopolies in the fields of telecommunications, oil, and energy.

In the long term, my commitment is to strengthening a model of development based on an educated society driven by a competitive economy, in which the motive force behind progress is provided by the most advanced models of production. Brazil can take this qualitative leap forward within the space of a single generation. The duration of a presidential term is long enough to set a course and to grant it a feeling of permanence, creating the conditions for the model to endure in the long term.

[Recena] What was your main concern as treasury minister?

[Cardoso] I worked to set the present economic stabilization plan in motion, as the first step in the reform of the Brazilian economy. The introduction of the real opens the way to measures ranging from the containment of public spending and the reduction of budgetary deficits to the gradual adaptation of the regulations governing foreign trade to conditions of greater openness and Brazil's integration into the world economy.

Relations with Portugal

[Recena] Once Brazil's economy has been stabilized, what will the prospects be with regard to the country's foreign trade and trade relations with Portugal?

[Cardoso] Brazil is a country with global aspirations. Its foreign trade is currently characterized by great diversification. Its stances on imports and exports are almost the same as those of the world's great economic structures.

This global approach has been strengthened since 1990. In this connection a plan for the gradual reduction of tariffs was adopted, to such a degree that the average import duty fell from 51 percent in 1988 to 14 percent by mid-1993. Now the Brazilian economy can be described as an open economy.

Technological capability and improved credit conditions will accompany this simultaneous effort of global opening-up and regional integration. Brazil's list of exports is now very diversified. Manufactured goods predominate, though agricultural products—from coffee to oranges and soya beans—and traditional minerals are still important. Hence Brazil's interest in the principle of free trade, which prompted us to take an active part in the negotiating efforts within the GATT context in the recently completed Uruguay round.

Bilateral trade between Brazil and Portugal is very small, but the prospects are great. Portugal is a member of the European Union and enjoys the international prestige that the vision of its statesmen has created. A mature European country, it will succeed in creating new opportunities on the basis of the two basic factors in its history, through the simultaneous exploitation of the roots that it set down in American lands. Brazil, whose economy I envisage as involved and interdependent in the world context, will always be a trustworthy partner loyal to its roots.

[Recena] If you are elected, what kind of cooperation do you hope for from Portugal?

[Cardoso] We will work together to ensure that justice, peace, and the law prevail. We will join efforts in the battle for socially just development. We will try to coordinate our positions in the quest for better representation for the Portuguese-speaking peoples in international forums. We will include in this task our fraternal African peoples who share our language and historical traditions.

Amorim: Tariff Reduction Not To Affect Mercosur

PY1409155494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2257 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Sep (EFE)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim stated today that the early implementation by Brazil of import tariffs agreed upon within the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) will not undermine the economic integration process.

Amorim, a 52-year-old career diplomat, told EFE that the decision to move up by 100 days the implementation of the rules concerning the Mercosur customs union "will not affect trade within Mercosur."

Brazil did not consult its Mercosur partners before adopting the above measure, which may be formally implemented on 15 September, because until 31 December it is incumbent upon each member country to set its own import tariffs.

The gradual process for setting up a customs union through a common external tariff on products that originate in countries located outside Mercosur will go into effect on 1 January. The process is scheduled to conclude in 2006, when the tariffs of all four member countries should have been consolidated.

In an effort to deter a possible wave of price speculation, which might threaten the Brazilian economic stabilization program, Finance Minister Ciro Gomes has announced that the government will decree this week the reduction of import tariffs for 13,000 products, including the 8,500 products listed within Mercosur.

Import tariffs for cars and television sets will drop from 35 percent to 20 percent, while those for audio and video equipment will drop from 30 to 20 percent.

Although Brazil has lowered its tariff barriers during the past four years, its market continues to be most closely guarded one in Latin America.

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Amorim added that during its consolidation stage Mercosur will hold a technical meeting in the next few weeks to discuss the possibility of creating some community organizations.

Commission Created To Monitor Tariff Reduction

PY1509025194 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2337 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By Marco Antonio Moreira]

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Sep (AE)—President Itamar Franco today signed a decree creating an Inter-Ministerial Foreign Trade Commission, which will have four main tasks: reduce the Tax on Importations (II), deregulate the activities linked with foreign trade, protect the local industry from unfair foreign competition (dumping), and promote exports, especially by granting the sector tax exemptions.

The international affairs secretary of the Finance Ministry will preside over the commission, a post that has not yet been filled. The secretaries of economic policy and federal revenue of the same ministry will also participate in the commission. The secretaries of foreign trade, industrial policy, and commercial policy of the ministry of industry, commerce, and tourism will also be members of the commission.

The government believes that the new commission became necessary after Finance Minister Ciro Gomes announced the plan to reduce the II on 13,000 products, for the purpose of stabilizing supply and preventing abusive price increases, as is happening with food, and black market prices, as is happening with cheap cars. Entrepreneurial organizations, which expressed concern about this decision, will also participate in the commission because they are afraid of suffering losses. Through this decision, the government hopes to make decisions more transparent.

Lower Import Taxes, Salary Law Decrees Signed

PY1409154494 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Report by Elizabeth Saenz in Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] President Itamar Franco today signed a decree creating an inter-ministerial committee that will decide on the reduction of import taxes on products. The reduction of import taxes affects 13,000 products, excluding only informatics products. The law also creates a security mechanism for national industry. The decree will take effect through a provision.

President Franco also signed a provisional measure anticipating the creation of the antidumping law as a way to protect Brazilian industries from foreign predators, taking into consideration retroactive actions and penalizing foreign products with a surtax.

Another decree signed by President Itamar Franco establishes regulations for the salary adjustments law. This decree does not involve any innovation. Finance Minister Ciro Gomes' only objective is to guide managers and workers on the subject of salary adjustments to compensate for purchasing power losses, based on collective labor bargains.

Finally, President Franco signed a provisional measure on the Rural Credit, whose funds, which are available in the Bank of Brazil branches, increased to 5.6 billion reals for farmers. It also establishes that 250 million reals are meant for small and micro farmers at an annual interest rate of 6 percent.

Labor Centrals Unite To Protest Government Policies

PY1509035294 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2248 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By Vera Dantas]

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo, 14 Sep (AE)—In an unprecedented decision, the leaders of the Sole Workers Central (CUT) and the Labor Force decided to unite to protest the government interference in metalworkers' salary negotiations. Both organizations have summoned representatives of all unions and civil organizations for a meeting at the headquarters of the Sao Paulo industrial belt metalworkers, in Sao Bernardo, at 1500 tomorrow. Says Heiguiberto Della Bella Navarro, also known as Guiba, who is the president of the Industrial Belt Metalworkers' Union and of the National Metalworkers' Confederation of the CUT: "Despite the political differences between the CUT and the Labor Force, we have common matters that are important for workers."

Labor leaders claim that the government has disregarded the principle of free negotiation by adopting an attitude that can have repercussions in all professional sectors. [passage omitted]

60,000 Metalworkers Begin Strike in Sao Paulo

PY1209190694 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1132 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Report by Marli Olmos]

[Text] Sao Paulo, 12 Sep (AE)—ABC [Sao Paulo industrial belt] Metalworkers Union President Heiguiberto Navarro holds Finance Minister Ciro Gomes responsible for the strike that has just begun. He said: "The strike was provoked by the minister. Had he not interfered, we would have reached accord." Navarro said this from a sound truck at the Autolatina factory in Sao Bernardo do Campo.

More than 60,000 metalworkers of the ABC region are striking in demand of a monthly readjustment of their salaries. A proposal to the automotive industry on 9 September called for payment of an equivalent to 40 hours of work. This is equivalent to the 11.87 percent inflation that has accrued since the implementation of the real plan. The government interfered in the negotiations. At 2330 last

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night, a Finance Ministry adviser called Navarro's home to announce that the government was looking for a way to prevent the strike.

The union leaders are now waiting for Gomes to call before 1500 today, at which time there will be a general assembly outside the union headquarters. Vicente Paulo da Silva, president of the Sole Workers Central [CUT], participated of the assemblies held since 0530 at the Mercedes Benz and Autolatina factories. Da Silva reiterated that the strike is not politically motivated. He said this is the first time since the 1980's the government has interfered so much in the negotiations.

Franco To Lead Talks on Strike

PY1509034794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2226 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By Marco Antonio Moreira]

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Sep (AE)—President Itamar Franco today decided to personally handle the negotiations that seek to put an end to the stoppage of 77,000 Sao Paulo industrial belt metalworkers, who went on strike on 12 September to demand an 11.87-percent salary adjustment outside their collective agreement renewal date. The increase corresponds to the inflation rate, measured by the IPC-r [Consumer Price Index-real] calculated by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), which accumulated in July and August. After a meeting at Planalto Palace that lasted almost two hours, the president authorized Finance Minister Ciro Gomes, Justice Minister Alexandre Dupeyrat, and Labor Minister Marcelo Pimentel to hold separate meetings with the involved parties tomorrow. At the end of the day, Franco will receive a detailed report on the meetings.

The meetings will be held at the Finance Ministry building. At 0900, the three ministers will meet with representatives of the Automobile Spare Parts Industry Union (Sindipecas). At 1400, they will meet National Association of Automotive Vehicle Manufacturers (Anfavea) representatives. At 1600, the ministers will meet with a commission of workers led by Sole Workers Central (CUT) President Vicente Paulo da Silva, also known as Vicentinho.

The government has made no official comments after today's meeting. Presidential advisers, however, hope to overcome the crisis. A Planalto Palace adviser recalls, for example, that Vicentinho last week expressed his "willingness to work to the point of exhaustion." President Franco had given an audience to Vicentinho, but they did not talk about salary adjustment because of the crisis provoked by the resignation of former Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero.

The president today signed two provisional measures, one to improve the antidumping law and the other to regulate the releasing of funds for rural credits. In addition, he signed a decree regulating salary readjustments, which had to be amended after an eror was detected in the text of the decree. The president also signed a decree that will control the reduction of import tariffs.

Labor Minister: Wage Readjustment 'Unacceptable'

PY1409151494 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Report by Arlete Milhomem in Brasilia]

[Text] Labor Minister Marcelo Pimentel says that compensating workers for salary losses outside the scheduled renegotiation date, as demanded by the metal workers on strike, would be unacceptable. According to him, the so-called bonus is nothing more than a compensation for loss of purchasing power, and in order not to contradict the current salary policy it can only be granted once a court issues sentence on the subject.

The labor minister said that the government does not want to interfere in private sector negotiations, but could resort to control measures if the automobile industries grant the wage increase.

[Begin recording] [Pimentel] The Federal Revenue Office has its means. For example, these powerful companies will be in [word indistinct] in such a manner that we could close the Bank of Brazil to them. As these companies have so much money that they can grant these kinds of illegal bonuses—given that they want the Real Plan to fail—we could close the Bank of Brazil to them.

[Unidentified reporter] What else?

[Pimentel] We could also close other banks to them. We could allow the importation of cars, or even encourage a subcontracts [terceirizacao] system. [end recording]

Minister Pimentel preferred not to comment on whether or not the reason for the strike is political. However, he believes that the strike has only two objectives: to reestablish the automatic wage adjustment trigger and to index salaries.

Commentary Predicts Change in State Elections

PY0909175094 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Sep 94 p 4

[Commentary by Marcio Moreira Alves: "Cautious Brazilian People"]

[Text] Brazilians are brave, but also cautious. One ox is not worth a fight. It is different if it is a herd of oxen, but better still if you keep the entire herd in the corral. It is better to have a single bird in the hand than two in the bush. This is the conclusion derived from surveys on voting intentions in the largest states.

The state governments that will be elected on 3 October will show a desire for change, but without scares or bumps. There will be a center front with a slight tilt to the left in Sao Paulo and a slight tilt to the right in Minas Gerais. The PT [Workers Party], the party that today represents the best

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organized option for the left, does not seem to have a chance of winning in any of the largest states. On the other hand, none of the candidates with a chance to win has close links with traditional opportunistic politicians or the irregular use of public funds. All of them are politicians without scandals in their past, which shows an ethical concern, not only by voters, but also by political parties.

The governor of Sao Paulo is a sort of grand duke of the Brazilian Federation. Mario Covas should win the election in the first round, but he will inherit a government so burdened with debts that the survival of Banespa [Sao Paulo State Bank], a bank with excellent professionals and a long tradition of solidity, is at risk. He will have to face immense problems with public servants, particularly teachers, the hospital system, and public security. He will have to fight on so many fronts that he will probably spend all his energy and work capacity trying to solve the state's domestic problems.

Helio Costa, who should also win in the first round, represents conservative modernization in Minas Gerais. He has specific development projects for the regions in a state the size of France, and where regions are economically and culturally quite different. His immediate concern will be to implement emergency food and employment programs to attend to the immediate needs of nearly 3 million people.

A runoff is inevitable in Rio de Janeiro. Contrary to the case in Parana, where voters are undecided between candidates who are received with enthusiasm and who are considered very good by their followers, the people in Rio de Janeiro must chose the candidate who is considered less bad.

Rio Grande do Sul has already chosen Antonio Britto, who is way ahead in the polls. He represents a modernizing plan that is less conservative than Helio Costa's. He is running ahead of PT candidate Olivio Dutra, despite Dutra's high approval rate as mayor of Porto Alegre.

Another candidate who will certainly be elected is Miguel Arraes, of Pernambuco, the only candidate who supports Lula's [Luis Inacio da Silva] candidacy. An old fox, he built up his unshakeable prestige by working with projects that do not have a good image, but are good for gathering votes. His interest in the poorest groups of the population earned him the people's gratitude in a state that has the most reactionary and discriminating elite in the entire northeastern region.

In Ceara, Tasso Jereissati's only concern, because he is well ahead, is to get his government comrade Sergio Machado elected to the Senate. Mauro Benevides is currently leading the senatorial race. Jereissati will try to continue the administrative modernization that he started eight years ago and which has produced excellent results in the state.

In Bahia the two leading candidates are conservatives. Paulo Souto, Antonio Carlos Magalhaes's candidate, has a slight advantage in the surveys. He is a technocrat with a reputation for efficiency. Former Governor Joao Durval is a traditional politician of the interior. Jutahy Magalhaes Junior, even though supporting Lula for regional reasons, is the newest offspring of a conservative class that has been in power since the 1930 revolution.

General lesson: The procession continues, but carrying the image very slowly.

Chile

Aninat Expresses 'Regret' Over U.S. Trade Accord Decision

PY1409222394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2008 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Santiago, 14 Sep (EFE)—Chilean Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat today expressed regret over the postponement of negotiations for a trade agreement with the United States due to the decision by the Clinton administration to withdraw the project involving congressional approval of the fast track mechanism.

Aninat said that the change of priorities with regard to the U.S. congressional agenda thwarts the Chilean hopes of beginning formal talks for a free trade agreement with the United States.

He added that the technical teams of the two countries have made progress in preliminary meetings, "which has contributed to clearing the path" for the initiation of formal negotiations that now, in the best of scenarios, will start in the early months of 1995.

Aninat commented, however, that "even without a fast track mechanism," technical work and informal meetings for a free trade agreement will continue. [passage omitted]

Aninat noted that the postponement not only affects Chile, but all Latin American countries which aspire to something similar, and asserted that Washington's decision "has lowered the profile of one of the most important issues" of the summit of the Americas to be held in Miami in December.

The Latin American countries regard commerce and investments as the key issues of the summit, but now the U.S. delegation will attend the event without the approval of "fast track treatment," which was fundamental for beginning negotiations on concrete grounds, said Aninat.

Moreover, Aninat disclosed a letter sent to him by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in which the latter pointed out that the decision has nothing to do with Chile or the Clinton administration's will to negotiate a free trade agreement.

Eduardo Aninat, who heads the Chilean team for negotiations with the United States, stated, however, that the delay "is nothing but that" and that aside from the loss of a few months "it will not affect the key issue because the two governments have reiterated their political will to work for a free trade agreement."

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He added that Chile's economic relations with other countries "are not only subject to the fast track treatment," as he referred to negotiations with the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), the European Union (EU), and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Aninat said: "Chile is a responsible country, its policies enjoy continuity, and it exerts equal effort with regard to all markets."

Central Bank President Comments

PY1409153394 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Today in Congress, Central Bank President Roberto Zahler stated that the Chilean economy is doing well and that the necessary conditions exist for inflation to be under 10 percent next year.

Zahler gave a detailed account of the Central Bank performance before a plenary session of the Senate.

He said the Chilean economic growth and the increase of exports are a sign of encouraging prospects for the future. He added that everything reveals that inflation this year will amount to around 11 percent and that it will drop next year.

[Begin Zahler recording] We have estimated an inflation rate of approximately 9 percent because we believe the conditions for this exist in Chile. For this, however, we need businessmen, workers, and government to share interests, policies, and attitudes in order to contribute to this inflation rate because there are no true reasons for it to be higher than the mentioned figure. [end recording]

The Central Bank president said the U.S. Government decision to postpone the free trade agreements with countries such as Chile should not affect the performance of the Chilean economy because it involves negotiations whose results will not be felt in the short term.

Six Working Groups To Support Talks With U.S.

PY1409215994 Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 23 Aug 94 p 6

[Text] A technical team comprising 40 professionals who will support the negotiation of a free-trade agreement with the United States or Chile's possible entry into NAFTA has been divided into six working groups.

A substantial part of the group—advisers of the Finance Ministry, and of other secretariats and other areas—met yesterday with Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat during a cocktail party at the Finance Ministry.

It was said that this marks the beginning of a broader and coordinated attempt to establish guidelines for future negotiation.

It was also said that each group will analyze a specific topic. They are distributed as follows: Access to markets, rules of origin and customs; Services, financial services, telecommunications, investment, and intellectual property; Environment; Labor laws; Technical barriers, government jurisdiction and purchases; Solutions to disputes—general and antidumping—and safeguard clauses.

The finance minister said the government will decide on the best option for Chile; the one that will provide access to more and better products, that will provide adequate and gradual progress toward sensitive sectors, that is an efficient and objective way to solve conflicts, and that offers important enhancements for the country's image and for foreign investment. This will permit progress toward a new stage of our development.

Although there is no official position yet, he said the NAFTA agreement will be used as a reference point because the subjects to be discussed are similar.

Minister Aninat added that the pre-negotiation study will focus on its main aspects in a thorough examination to identify sensitive areas.

The NAFTA agreement, with its 22 chapters over 2,000 pages, will be thoroughly studied because it includes traditional subjects like reduced tariffs on goods, the rules of origin and efficient ways to solve conflicts, as well as newer issues like services, investments, and capital flow.

The finance minister concluded by saying that a third line of study will analyze the Chilean laws that will be affected by an agreement of this nature, seeking to evaluate the suitability of the agreement.

Chamber President Criticizes Reform Initiative

PY1409222194 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 7

[Article by Raul Rojas]

[Excerpt] Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn, president of the Chamber of Deputies, has reaffirmed his criticism of the constitutional amendment project, saying that "it is obvious that it seeks to reduce the oversight authority" of that congressional commission.

Schaulsohn made these remarks after a meeting with Minister Secretary General of Government Victor Manuel Rebolledo.

He expressed hope that everything would be resolved, as the executive branch could change its opinion or the project could experience some changes during its discussion in Congress. He added that the debate is only beginning, and that it is up to Congress to defend its power and to the executive branch to not try to reduce it.

He also expressed the need for a new agreement within the coalition because, as he said, there is no consensus on any of the amendments, adding that considering the way the project was proposed by the executive branch, it will not

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receive the necessary votes for its approval within the Constitution, Law, and Justice Commission in the Chamber of Deputies.

He said that neither he, in his role as president of the Chamber of Deputies, nor Gabriel Valdes, as president of the Senate, were aware of the project before it was sent to Congress by the government, which would have allowed the appropriate observations, for instance.

He said that a meeting of the presidents of the parties making up the coalition will be held on 29 August with the members of the Constitution, Law, and Justice Commission, at which time this situation will be discussed.

Schaulsohn said: "I fully disagree with the government proposal the deputies and senators be prohibited from expressing opinions on investigations, and that they be punished for those judgments and opinions with suspension from their posts. This implies making the questioning sessions in the Chamber of Deputies secret. It is like instituting a permanent prohibition against reporting on pre-trial proceedings, or curtailing the power the judges have to establish prohibitions against reporting. It is aberrant and inadmissible."

Concerning his having channeled his criticisms through the communications media, he said: "Within a democracy we must say things in an open manner, especially because I have the obligation to defend the integrity of the Chamber of Deputies." [passage omitted]

Colombia

Prosecutor Rescinds Surrender Policy for Drug Traffickers

PA1509043594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock News" newscast]

[Text] Prosecutor General Alfonso Valdivieso has returned from Washington D.C. and is apparently determined to end the era of former Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff and begin his own. He has already started doing this by revoking decisions of his predecessor.

A little more than 18 months ago, three well-known members of the Cali Cartel appeared before former Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff. They were Pacho Herrera, Jose Olmedo Ocampo, and Juan Carlos Ramirez. They voluntarily surrendered to iron out their status with the justice system. In accordance with the Penal Code, the prosecutor general issued safe-conduct documents to prevent them from being detained during the investigation. The decision was strongly criticized by the administration of President Cesar Gaviria and former Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta.

Today, the new prosecutor general announced that these measures will be revoked, because they open a loophole for impunity.

[Begin Valdivieso recording] It used to be that 20, 30, 40, or even one [as heard] individuals came here to proclaim: They said over there that I am involved, but I had nothing to do with it; investigate me.

This cannot be. I believe guilt—whether by confession or not—should be a starting point. This is my opinion. [end recording]

For the new prosecutor, the strategy the drug traffickers are using to manipulate the law in their favor and resolve their problems with the law has come to and end.

[Begin Valdivieso recording] I am not going to open an investigation whenever someone turns up here and says: I am here to be processed and investigated. No, I do not agree with that. I do not think that the application of this article should go so far. [end recording]

Upon his return, Valdivieso confirmed that drug traffickers will get stiffer penalties in Colombian courts based on evidence provided by the United States. In this way, Valdivieso seems to be closing the book on the De Greiff era and beginning a new era of surrendering to justice.

Minister Reports Rebel Attacks on French Oil Installations

PA1409162394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Energy and Mines Minister Jorge Eduardo Cock by Dario Arizmendi from the studio in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] Two installations of the French Kelt Energy Colombia multinational company were the targets of incendiary attacks by the so-called Jose David Suarez Front of the ELN [Army of National Liberation]. The attacks caused more than $10 million in losses. Caracol has gotten in touch with Energy and Mines Minister Jorge Eduardo Cock. Good morning, Minister. What additional information do you have about this guerrilla attack in Casanare yesterday?

[Cock] Well, [words indistinct] burned fuel...

[Arizmendi, interrupting] Excuse me minister, let us try calling you again because the connection is quite bad, because today we are working from an emergency studio. [Interview resumes 1 minute later] Let us see if we have better luck with Energy and Mines Ministery Jorge Eduardo Cock. Sir, you were telling us about the guerrilla attack yesterday.

[Cock] Yes, Dario. Small groups of guerrillas yesterday attacked the facilities of [words indistinct]. They destroyed the installations, houses, and fuel tanks. They spilled crude oil and burned about 10,000 barrels of petroleum. Such destruction is very unfortunate. They were small groups. It seems this was due to the fact that the Army is conducting intense operations in the northern part [words indistinct]. This is very unfortunate for the country.

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[Arizmendi] It is said there were just a few private guards. Is it true that the presence of the public force in the area leaves much to be desired?

[Cock] Well, no, there is a quite extensive presence of the public force, but this is concentrated in the bigger installations that appear to be more vulnerable. The installations that were attacked are located in a more remote area and had never been the targets of attacks. [Words indistinct] demanding more and more expenditures by the state to protect economic activity.

[Arizmendi] Minister, we understand that the contract with Shell dealing with the concession called Neiva 540 in Huila Department expires in November. What will happen? Who will take over the operation of Neiva 540? Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] or the private sector?

[Cock] Yes, that contract expires in November. That concession reverts to the nation between 5 and 17 November. I do not remember the exact date. Yesterday, the Ecopetrol board of directors decided that the Ecopetrol companies will take over the operation of those fields. They are important fields, which have considerable reserves. They are quite profitable. Shell wanted to continue the contract, and there was some controversy about this. [Words indistinct] very interesting, which was resolved a few days ago. That is why it is not until now that the issue about what will be done is being brought up [words indistinct] some alternatives about contracting out the operation. Shell wanted to continue operating it. It was willing to be a contractor instead of being granted an extension of the concession. Nevertheless, yesterday we notified Shell that the national government and Ecopetrol have decided to take over the operation. We would be willing to study some arrangements, but if they are well [words indistinct], for example, to have an Ecopetrol affiliate incorporating the workers and possibly the municipal and departmental governments of Huila Department. But all of this would be the case as long as there is full consensus and broad acceptance and it involves a good project for regional development.

[Arizmendi] In any case, Ecopetrol will be in charge of managing the operation?

[Cock] Yes, Ecopetrol will be directly responsible for the operation.

[Arizmendi] Regarding this same topic, what about the privatization process about which there is much talk [words indistinct]?

[Cock] No, Dario, there is no privatization. The president of the republic stated this during his campaign, and I have been very definite about this. I want to send this message to the entire country. Ecopetrol will not be privatized. The only thing that has been mentioned is a possible reorganization, which has only begun to be studied. I do not think anyone can be opposed to the study of ways to improve the company's organization and this [words indistinct] make it stronger, more competitive, and efficient.

[Arizmendi] But will the representatives of workers participate in that reorganization?

[Cock] Obviously, any decision on a new structure for the company must be discussed by all sectors that form part of Ecopetrol's administrative and labor force.

M-19 Dissident Group Occupies Town

PA1509021994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Chambor; from the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Some 100 M-19 [19 April Movement] guerrilla dissidents took over the town of Riofrio in Valle del Cauca Department last night. The group's attack raises questions about the peace talks with this guerrilla group and about the peace proposals being discussed today.

Residents of Riofrio woke up last night when more than 100 members of the M-19, including men, women, and children, attacked the town at 1215.

[Begin Riofrio Police Commander Silvio Ospina recording] They left some pamphlets, which alluded to a Jaime Bateman Movement. They are possibly dissidents of the M-19. They painted slogans citing this Jaime Bateman Movement. Residents said they shouted that the M-19 was not dead and that it was still alive. They said that they were supporting and fighting for regional dialogue. They claimed to be members of the Jaime Bateman Movement. [end recording]

The guerrilla occupation lasted over an hour. The 15 policemen at the local station returned fire. The Agrarian Bank [Caja Agraria] was blown up with dynamite, with losses estimated at over 10 million pesos, in addition to the 1.5 million pesos they stole. The owner of a taxi was seriously injured.

The weapons used by the so-called M-19 dissidents were U.S.-made grenades, as well as 7.62-mm and AR-15 rifles. The Army has already left the town, a move that has left the residents once again feeling unprotected.

Demobbed M-19 Senator Notes Reasons for Attacks

PA1509134394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] What do demobilized members of M-19 [19 April Movement] think of the attack by their former comrades? What happened to the reinsertion program, the return to civilian life, and political participation? We talked to them.

According to the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] and Army intelligence, the group of M-19 dissidents, which numbers no more than 50, operates in northwestern Valle del Cauca and northern Cauca Departments, as well as on the border between Quindio and Tolima Departments.

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According to the demobilized M-19 members, the dissidents' attitude is caused more by a lack of political guarantees than by a failure of the economic reinsertion program.

[Begin former M-19 Senator Gustavo Petro recording] We have a society in Colombia that has not yet become accustomed to the idea that the country must change and that the country must have other political forces leading it. We have a political movement that was also incapable of making a difference and of establishing a political alternative in Colombia. [end recording]

Gustavo Petro said that at least 20 of the demobilized members returned to the mountains of Cauca Department and that EPL [Popular Liberation Army] dissidents and peasants of the region have joined them to form a group of at least 100 men with good military skills.

Petro said the dissident group is willing to renegotiate with the government, as they made known during his political campaign.

Samper Travels to Washington With Gaviria

PA1409195294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] A few minutes ago, President Ernesto Samper left for Washington. The only reason for his trip is to accompany former President Cesar Gaviria when he takes office as secretary general of the OAS tomorrow.

On this occasion, the official delegation, which includes some former presidents and former ministers closest to Gaviria, has been expanded as a result of a special invitation issued to directors of various media organizations. It will be the beginning of a new style at the OAS, a style already tested in Colombia. There will be good times and good food for the members of the kindergarten [reference to the youthfulness of former President Gaviria and his ministers] again.

Peru

State of Emergency Extended in Lima, Callao

PY1409222994 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The Government has extended for a further 60 days the state of emergency in Lima department and Callao province. The state of emergency was extended because terrorist actions continue.

Terrorist Acts Declining, Antidrug Actions Up

PY1209182994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1725 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Lima, 29 Aug (EFE)—The considerable drop in terrorist activities has allowed the Peruvian Government to increase its antidrug struggle, specially in the Peruvian Amazon jungle.

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has said that in spite of the "minimal" aid received from abroad, the antidrug fight has been intensified throughout the country.

By the word "minimal" the president referred to the withdrawal last May of the radar installations by the United States from the Peruvian jungle. These installations were used to detect Colombian planes coming to collect cocaine.

The United States also unilaterally suspended the supply of information obtained by satellite and radar, which makes the antidrug operations even more difficult.

Two important Peruvian trafficking barons have been arrested this year by the Peruvian police: Demetrio Chavez Penaherrera, alias "Vaticano," and Lucio Enrique Tijero Guzman.

The former was arrested in Cali, Colombia, and immediately deported to Lima, while the latter was arrested 15 days ago at a mansion he owns in Lima.

Tijero was apparently a squanderer; he had an automobile with gold bumpers and, according to the police, earned $1 million per month.

Other people were arrested with Tijero, and the police are now trying to link them to trafficking.

Defense Ministry reports state that one result of the military operations against traffickers over the past few days was the arrest of eight people, the destruction of a laboratory and a collection center, and the confiscation of $245,000 in the departments of Pasco and Amazonas.

Moreover, 64 hectares of illegal coca plantations and 11 coca maceration pits were destroyed.

The National Police Antidrug Division reported that more than 120 tons of precursors used in the production of drugs have been seized so far during 1994, compared to 75 tons in 1993.

Moreover, 14 clandestine landing strips built for Colombian planes, 13 laboratories, and 56 maceration pits have been destroyed.

A total of 8 tons of drugs were confiscated between January and August 1994, including 7.5 tons of basic cocaine paste.

For the first time the police report also includes the seizure of more than half a ton of poppy seeds. Opium is obtained from poppies which the traffickers are now trying to plant in the country.

Since 1991 a total of 140 planes allegedly related to trafficking have been intercepted. Planes are now flying with greater freedom following the withdrawal of the radar installations, which Fujimori said the country cannot replace by itself.

Meanwhile, rescue patrols are searching the jungle in the northern department of San Martin for a plane that crashed

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on 27 August near the locality of Tocache, with five DEA agents aboard. These agents were participating in the antidrug fight.

The plane has been spotted, completely burned out, in a place with very difficult access some 30 Km from Tocache. It is believed no one survived.

The names of the victims have not been released [as received], although it has been said they included two pilots and three agents.

Mrs Fujimori Creates Movement, Decides To Run for President

PY1409154794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1733 GMT 13 Sep 94

[By Francisco Osaba]

[Text] Lima, 13 Sep (EFE)—The surprising decision by Susana Higuchi, ex-first lady of Peru, to become a presidential candidate caused an extraordinary commotion among Peruvian politicians and in society.

The Peruvian people, who are used to the ups and downs in the marriage of Alberto Fujimori and his wife Susana, were astonished to see on television on the night of 12 September a smiling and triumphant looking Susana Higuchi announcing her presidential candidacy with a clear and emphatic "I am launching my candidacy."

A new chapter in the "Fujidrama," which is the name used to describe the marital and political confrontation of the presidential couple in Peru, began with the second decision made by Susana Higuchi in the last few hours.

The first announcement was the creation of the political movement "21st Century Harmony" [Armonia Siglo XXI], which she heads; she justified this by saying "it is because I want harmony not only in my family but also in all Peru."

After this announcement, the worst was feared, although not so quickly, and the worst announcement, especially for President Alberto Fujimori, was his wife's decision to announce last night her intention to run for the presidency in the upcoming April elections.

The search for revenge is on. Two months of denunciations, isolation, humiliation, and accusations turned into a political situation which is "unique in Peru," one not seen in decades, said the Lima press today.

What started with accusations of corruption made by Susana Higuchi against two former ministers was followed by complaints that an article of the Electoral Law prevented her from holding public office, leading to her dismissal as the first lady and to accusations of adultery against the president, culminating in the current situation.

"He will be shaken up" said Susana Higuchi, 43, when asked what her husband's reaction would be of her decision.

In fact, Fujimori was sarcastic but serious when he learned before the television cameras of his wife's decision to enter the political arena.

Fujimori said: "This is nonsense. Those who accuse the government should be allowed to talk because those who talk like that have slightly swollen kidneys. And the only way to deflate them is by talking."

There were other immediate reactions, especially among politicians and in congress, where the support for the president's wife has been discarded.

Henry Pease, leader of the Leftist Democratic Movement (MDI), said that Higuchi has the right to become a candidate "because she is a citizen."

He indicated, however, that his party has no intention of supporting her because the party likes the candidacy of former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Congressman Artero Flores-Araoz of the Popular Christian Party (PPC) said that Higuchi can run for the presidency like any other citizen, but that his party will not support her.

Congress Vice President Carlos Torres said Higuchi's decision is "respectable" because it is her right "as long as her rights are not restricted; otherwise, she will not be able to run."

Regarding her rights, experts on electoral law said today that the National Election Board must decide on this case based on either the electoral legislation or the Constitution.

If the decision is based on the Constitution, which does not restrict the people's participation in elections, Susana Higuchi can become a candidate. If the decision is based on the Electoral Law, Higuchi will not be able to run.

In the meantime, the people's opinion regarding Higuchi's decision was reflected in the flood of telephone calls to the radio stations.

The women who expressed their support for Higuchi, and her support rate among women reached 98 percent, said that finally a Peruvian woman wants to be president "in a country where machismo prevails."

The men in general rejected her candidacy by noting that her decision is "ridiculous" and "useless."

Based on the first reactions, practically everyone agrees that if Susana Higuchi breaks the legal barriers to run, she will not win the presidency, but she will do "great harm" to President Fujimori's candidacy if he decides to run for reelection.

In the meantime, while the reactions to her decision were increasing, Susana Higuchi today left the presidential residence to move to the facilities of the Winsconsin Academy in the San Borja district, which she owns, and which is her new residence and the headquarters of the "21st Century Harmony" movement.

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Perez de Cuellar on Presidential Candidacy

BR0809121094 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 8 Sep 94 p 4

[Report on interview with former UN General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar by Juan Jesus Aznarez in Lima; date not given: "'The Authoritarianism of the Regime Has Forced Me To Act'"]

[Text] Javier Perez de Cuellar, 74 years old and the former United Nations secretary general admired by his compatriots for his international prominence and political relevance, will decide by 23 September whether he is going to stand as a candidate for the presidency of Peru. Everything would lead one to believe that, barring unforeseen circumstances, he is certain to run, with President Alberto Fujimori as his main opponent. In his house in the Lima neighborhood of San Isidro, Perez de Cuellar stressed that he is coming back—"purely as a patriot"—to try and change the course currently being taken by his country. "To sum it up in a word, it is the authoritarianism of the current regime that has forced me to react and make a personal effort."

Perez de Cuellar, who believes that the presence of nongovernmental organizations at the presidential elections next year will be a positive thing in terms of guaranteeing their transparency, admitted that "it is not easy to understand why a man who has held very high positions, and who is no spring chicken, would undertake to consider running for the presidential election. I am doing it purely as a patriot."

He said that, until the day of his final decision, he will devote his time to "listening to Peru." He has been doing this for weeks in his trips inside the country. "The presidential candidacy is a very big responsibility, and the first thing you have to know is what the problems are. Then the solutions can be formulated." One fundamental issue he highlighted is poverty, since 50 percent of the country's population lives below the poverty line, "if not in extreme poverty. This forces one to go out and see, listen, and ascertain the extent to which this is true. I have ascertained that. To this problem must be added the lack of work—which in Peru has very serious social ramifications—not to mention education and health. There is an accumulation of problems requiring a new and more vigorous approach."

Cuellar objects to a second uninterrupted term for Fujimori, who, according to the figures, wins no more than 40 percent of popular support when people are surveyed about his continuing in the post. "Uninterrupted presidential reelection—not just in Peru but practically throughout our America [as published]—has been the exception, or at least it has led to very poor results. I feel that parliament's decision to allow it is a serious mistake which is not really in step with the real feeling in the country."

He is also against the current unicameral system. He maintains that, when the time comes, a return to the bicameral system will have to be considered because it is "much more in line with a country like Peru that has many different regions." "This congress," he added, "has created a made-to-measure Constitution, a tailor-made suit for President Fujimori, who, as we all know, has an excessive tendency toward autocratic leadership. And excessive autocratic leadership goes hand in hand with excessive centralism. Everything is concentrated in the capital, and this has given rise to great resentment in the various regions, which feel ignored by the central government."

Perez de Cuellar admitted that the government has achievements to its credit: the substantial modification of macroeconomic policy, the ensuing control of inflation, and the adoption of a free-trade policy, "which, in actual fact, is the policy being followed virtually throughout the world in one form or another. There is no question about that. I think that, if there were a candidate of the Left, he would have no problem maintaining this macroeconomic policy." He reproached the executive body, however, for not compensating for the rigors of this policy by implementing an emergency social plan. "Unfortunately, this plan was recently put into effect, at the same time—coincidentally—as the onset of the election campaign." Another success he mentioned is the blow dealt by the current administration to Shining Path terrorism and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. "Now, it would have been desirable for this perfectly justifiable crackdown to have been carried out with due respect for human rights, because even criminals have human rights. I would say that in the view of national public opinion it is this sense of personal safety that now exists which is felt to be the government's greatest achievement. The people have less fear now—or none at all—of terrorism.

Are there full guarantees in Peru that the election will be clean? "I think that we need greater guarantees of a clean election process," the virtual candidate for the presidency of Peru said. "I have the utmost confidence in the power of the vote, but I think that it will be very important for nongovernmental institutions to participate in observing the elections, and I think that the government will provide them with all the necessary facilities, as is it is obliged to do. I believe that the Organization of American States has a commitment to this."

Although they do not participate much in the process, the Armed Forces receive the final acts with the results of the vote. Perez de Cuellar shows caution on the military class as an institution when asked for his thoughts on the belief that the military would feel better with Alberto Fujimori's candidacy. "That depends on what military you are talking about. Probably the current command. However, I have no reason to prejudge the Army. I have many friends in the Army and I am confident that it will conduct itself as a perfectly independent and apolitical institution."

The former United Nations secretary general, who emphatically rules out an agreement with parties, despite acknowledging that they are the foundation of democracy, noted that certain media are trying to present him as a Leftist candidate opposed to privatization. "There are certain periodicals, to put it euphemistically, which misinterpret my statements or which quote me incompletely. However, it is obvious that they want to present me as a candidate of

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the Left. What I want to do is position myself in the middle of the scale and accept useful contributions for rebuilding the country from both sides, Right and Left. I am interested in mobilizing the people who are capable of doing that."

On privatization, he stated that care needed to be exercised in some cases. "There are some investments which must be restricted, with a view to the national interest," Perez de Cuellar said. "Let foreign capital come, as long as it is associated with the state, which can sell off up to 60 percent. Nevertheless, there must be control."

Fujimori Rejects Debt Renegotiations With Paris Club, IMF

PY1409222794 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 27 Aug 94 p A4

[Text] Last night President Alberto Fujimori rejected any eventual renegotiations with the Paris Club or with international organizations such as the IMF, the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank], or the World Bank.

He said: "We are currently involved in conducting negotiations at the bilateral level, country by country, within the Paris Club, in the framework of which we have achieved several agreements such as debt condoning, or a swap of the debt for investments in ecology and in building schools."

Fujimori explained that it is the commercial debt that is increasing: "It is the debt with international private banks that is increasing, due to high interest rates of over 15 percent and negotiations on the public debt which have not yet been completed."

Fujimori said that he is waiting for Congress to approve the purchase of the 'Mantaro' and 'Pachitea' ships before discussing the pending problem with the American Express and Chemical Banks.

Commenting on IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus' statement, Fujimori said Camdessus had not criticized but rather praised the Peruvian economic program. The president admitted, however, that tax collection is a defect in the economic program.

President Alberto Fujimori made these comments after visiting an exhibition of educational modules at the National Industry Association.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Opposes Haiti Invasion

PY1409143294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2340 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Sep (EFE)—Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu, representing the Uruguayan Government, today reiterated his country's opposition to military intervention in Haiti, and its position in favor of lifting the economic embargo on Cuba.

"Sometimes the remedy is worse than the disease," Abreu said, with respect to the announced invasion of Haiti. Abreu recalled that Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle had recently said that it would be better to spend the money to be used for the military operation on food assistance for the Haitian people.

Abreu held a news conference with foreign correspondents accredited in Uruguay. He elaborated on remarks made on Cuba and Haiti on 12 September, in light of the Rio Group summit results, and talked about issues such as the GATT process and regional integration.

Abreu spoke as an official from the country where the GATT negotiations ending in the Marrakech (Morocco) agreement had started. He said he was concerned because most countries have still not ratified the agreement or the act creating the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Today the Uruguayan minister talked with the GATT director general, who expressed the same concern. Abreu stressed that it was important that countries that have still not ratified the act do so before January 1995, so as not to hurt the world trade liberalization process.

Regarding Haiti and Cuba, Abreu pointed out that "Uruguay is by tradition, conviction, and suitability a strong defender of the principle of nonintervention and self-determination," and therefore rejects the entry of foreign military forces, whether from one or many countries, into a sovereign state, as well as the imposition of economic or trade embargoes by one or many countries to put pressure on another country.

"The higher price is paid by the people, and not the governments," Abreu said, with respect to the embargoes on Haiti and Cuba, countries he defined as the only dictatorships of the American continent.

The Uruguayan minister said that disagreements between his country and Argentina on these questions do not affect "the excellent bilateral relations" between the two countries, and will not affect the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) "yet" because each member country is free to decide its own foreign policy.

Abreu said, however, that repercussions of the announced military intervention in Haiti will probably be felt at the hemispheric summit in Miami, in December. Abreu made clear, however, that the invasion will not affect "the meeting's success" but rather "the intensity of the speeches."

For Abreu, Haiti is part of the inter-American system, and the OAS "the appropriate organization" to deal with the problem.

The Uruguayan foreign minister said that although he respects the UN Security Council resolution authorizing an intervention, he does not think the arguments supporting the resolution—danger to peace and world security—"reflect reality" in the case of Haiti.

Abreu recognized that the possibility that the current Haitian rulers would leave power on their own are "remote," but added that despite everything we must insist on seeking a political solution as opposed to intervention.

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Iranian Ambassador Discusses Argentine Attack

PY0909211694 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 3 Sep 94 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Iranian Ambassador to Uruguay 'Ali Sarmadi-Rad by reporters Alfonso Lessa and Andres Alsina in Montevideo; date not given]

[Text] [EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Mr. Ambassador, on what grounds has Iran denied participating in the 18 July terrorist attack in Buenos Aires and the Argentine Government's charges against four Iranian diplomats?

[Sarmadi-Rad] The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran denied those charges because Iran is also a victim of terrorism. Since its foundation it has been a target for domestic, international, and state terrorism. This is why the Islamic Republic of Iran has from its very beginning stated that it is against any type of terrorism, including state terrorism. This is a very strong point which is substantiated by principles. Hence, Iran condemns any terrorist attack perpetrated in Argentina and will deny any involvement.

Iran's innocence has been corroborated by Argentina's admission that the alleged involvement of Iranian citizens (in the attack), is not legitimate, especially concerning the four Iranians mentioned by the Argentine authorities. One of them is a member of parliament who travelled to Argentina at the invitation of its authorities, with whom he held interesting talks. The other three are diplomats who were on tour in Argentina in the 1980's and the early 1990's. The last one to depart Buenos Aires left 10 months before the attack. How could they be implicated in the terrorist attack?

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Why do you think that there is a move to implicate Iran in these attacks?

[Sarmadi-Rad] We must once go back to the victory of the Islamic revolution, which triggered off all sorts of attempts by foreign countries, especially superpowers, to destroy the Islamic Republic of Iran, including through an attempted coup and an imposed war. I would like to point out that during the eight-year war imposed on Iran, many countries in the world contributed to the aggression against Iran but, in the end, it was clear that Iran was innocent and Iraq was the aggressor.

This is typical of things the superpowers did to destroy Iran. Perhaps the latest attempt against Iran is to change or smear Iran's image in the eyes of the public. Nevertheless, thank God it has been proven that neither Iranians nor the Iranian Government were implicated in this event.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Do you believe the Argentine Government is involved in this campaign, which as you contend, seeks to destroy Iran's image?

[Sarmadi-Rad] I am convinced the Argentine Government did not know at first it was being used in a game, the rules of which were established by somebody else. They became involved without having undertaken any investigation. Let us not forget that the attack had no sooner been perpetrated than an Israeli authority announced—an hour later—that Iran was implicated before any investigations had been conducted.

This is the story the Argentines believed. They followed the erroneous information provided by an Israeli authority.

They later began to play their role, but they knew from the very beginning that it was not true, that there was no evidence to prove that Iran was implicated in this attack. Charges were once again leveled against Iran due to the information provided by an Iranian defector in Venezuela. The Argentines clung to this information and thought they might be able to use it. Nevertheless, they could not use Iran. They wanted to end the game and found they had nothing, no leads to enable them to say Iran was implicated.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Who wrote the story?

[Sarmadi-Rad] My personal opinion is that the story was written by the Americans and the Israelis.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Why?

[Sarmadi-Rad] There is a clear reason, which I mentioned in my last answer. They feel Iran is their enemy. They want to destroy the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] In your opinion, who is responsible for the attack?

[Sarmadi-Rad] How can we know that! This occurred in Argentina, which possibly has its own problems and internal enemies, or whatever, but the problem has nothing to do with Iran.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Can you think of anyone who would benefit from the attack?

[Sarmadi-Rad] The only thing I can say is that Argentina suffered a loss of prestige, but I do not know who would benefit. At least Argentina and Iran did not benefit from the incident.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] How do you think Iran's relations with Argentina will develop now?

[Sarmadi-Rad] We try not to disturb bilateral relations. We have had relations for a long time and accusations like these should not exist (between us) because they hurt our relations. But things happened and each country recalled its ambassador. It would not be difficult to reconstruct our relations.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Do you think the Argentine ambassador will return to Tehran any time soon?

[Sarmadi-Rad] We hope he will. Argentina has no reason not to send its ambassador back.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Will Iran wait for Argentina to send its ambassador back before resuming totally normal relations?

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[Sarmadi-Rad] That is a technical matter. I hope the Argentine ambassador will return soon, or at the appropriate time, and our ambassador will also return. Both countries have realized that what was happening was not something between Iran and Argentina. In my opinion relations should return to normal, just like before.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Montevideo is very close to the place where the attack occurred. Has security been reinforced at the embassy or your residence as a consequence of the attack?

[Sarmadi-Rad] First I would like to say that Uruguay, and particularly Montevideo, are very quiet. Uruguay is a very peaceful country. This is why I hope what happened on Wednesday (at the Filtro Hospital on 24 August) [scene of demonstrations of the extradition of hunger-striking ETA terrorists to Spain] will not occur again. We feel quite safe here, although some type of security is always necessary. We have taken precautions but we do not believe anything will happen. The Uruguayan authorities have a clear idea about how to maintain security at diplomatic missions.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Did Iran offer intelligence cooperation to Argentina when the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] was bombed?

[Sarmadi-Rad] We offered our cooperation to the Argentine Government. We believe terrorism is an international problem. In order (to face) international problems we need an international solution, a global solution. We need global cooperation for a global solution.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Did you offer to cooperate in the investigation of the 18 July attack on the AMIA?

[Sarmadi-Rad] Yes. We offered to cooperate with Argentine authorities in whatever was necessary to clarify what happened.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] How did they reply?

[Sarmadi-Rad] We have not received any answer.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Do you think Iran was in any real position to help clarify the attack?

[Sarmadi-Rad] We could at least have cooperated with them, although results can never be forecast. We could have offered information. We could have cooperated. You never know, maybe we could have solved something.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Why do you think Argentina did not answer?

[Sarmadi-Rad] You should ask the Argentine Government.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] You mentioned the need for global cooperation on terrorism. Argentina made a proposal on this subject at the United Nations. Is Iran willing to adhere to the proposal or join talks based on that proposal?

[Sarmadi-Rad] Of course. There is no doubt about it. The Argentines spoke about the need to create an international force to stop terrorism, and we are willing to cooperate.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] What do you think prevents that cooperation from materializing?

[Sarmadi-Rad] We have a proposal. The authorities of the two countries and the authorities of other countries should work together to create the bases for cooperation and thus protect their countries from terrorism.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] The Iranian people have their own conception of the world. Based on that conception, what do you think of the use of violence abroad? Are you opposed to the use of violence abroad?

[Sarmadi-Rad] As I said before, Iran is opposed to any type of terrorism. That means all types of terrorism, including terrorism abroad. Iran is opposed to all types of international terrorism.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] But in 1989 Iran condemned Salman Rushdie to death.

[Sarmadi-Rad] No. That was not announced by Iran. The Islamic countries met and announced Rushdie's sentence. The Iranian Government never said it wanted to kill Salman Rushdie.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] But it does not oppose the resolution condemning him to death, does it?

[Sarmadi-Rad] It is an Islamic vision that Iran cannot change.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] But attitudes like the one involving Salman Rushdie help to create the image that Iran is behind terrorism, do you not think so?

[Sarmadi-Rad] The opposite is also interesting. One person has hurt, spoken, and written against the opinion and beliefs of the entire Islamic world.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] What does Iran think of the Middle East peace process, particularly between Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians?

[Sarmadi-Rad] They say there is a continuing peace process but Iran will not approve the process until the Palestinians obtain all the land to which they are entitled.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Is Iran opposed to the process?

[Sarmadi-Rad] We are not advancing with the process.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] But Iran's refusal to support the peace process means denying recognition to the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

[Sarmadi-Rad] The PLO is a political party, and it does not represent the entire Palestinian people. The PLO has answered some Palestinian questions, but there are many more unanswered questions. For instance: What will

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happen to Palestinians living abroad or in exile? There are many and we still did not hear an answer.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] In your opinion, who represents the Palestinian people?

[Sarmadi-Rad] There are many different groups in Palestine. Some support the peace process, other do not. The revolution continues between those who have land, and in the Palestinian camps [sentence as published].

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] What is the alternative if you do not believe in those processes? A violent struggle, war?

[Sarmadi-Rad] No. We believe there must be a process and that all Palestinian rights must be recognized. It depends entirely on the Palestinian people. We, as a Muslim country, support all Palestinian rights.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Do you think a separate peace agreement with the PLO and Jordan strengthens the possibility of Israeli aggression against Iran?

[Sarmadi-Rad] Why would Israel attack Iran? I do not think there will be a war between Iran and Israel. I cannot even conceive that idea.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Do you see aggression in what is being said about Iran?

[Sarmadi-Rad] There is always talk.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Let us return to the attack in Buenos Aires. What is your evaluation of the information that has been disseminated, the coverage of the attack?

[Sarmadi-Rad] This is an opportunity to say that the world's media is in a certain way, consciously or unconsciously, controlled by the United States and by Zionism. This is why a lot of the information has been channeled their way and has not been just.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Why would the United States encourage Argentina to break relations with Iran instead of carrying out its own offensive?

[Sarmadi-Rad] Because for the past year the Americans and the United States have been blockading Iran, both from the economic and political viewpoint. [sentence as published] Do not forget the Group of Nine meeting (in 1994 in Italy) when the United States asked the other industrialized countries to curtail their economic relations with Iran. They are also trying to isolate us by asking other countries to break relations with Iran. In other words, from this viewpoint Iran will find itself in a critical position with reduced diplomatic relations. In other words, an economic embargo. That is the challenge they want to impose, and this is why the Americans asked Argentina to break relations with Iran.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Do you expect the policy you say the United States is applying to continue through some other country?

[Sarmadi-Rad] There is no doubt about that.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] With a bomb?

[Sarmadi-Rad] No, but they will use everything that they have to hand.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Is Israel the main enemy of Iran today?

[Sarmadi-Rad] People believe Iran is Israel's main enemy, but we do not acknowledge Israel in any way or form. We believe Zionism is the main enemy of Iran, but that is something else: This does not mean we are against Jews. There are Jews living even in Iran.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] With that kind of viewpoint war seems unavoidable...

[Sarmadi-Rad] That is your evaluation.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Let us again talk about terrorism. Hizballah and Hamas are accused of terrorism, and Iran is accused of supporting them. What is the relationship with Hezballah and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Sarmadi-Rad] There are political parties in Lebanon that are fighting for their rights, and they have the right to do so. We have relations with political parties in other countries, and we maintain relations with Hezballah and support its ideas.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] When you say you support it, does this mean that you support it with both political support and with weapons?

[Sarmadi-Rad] No, we do not support it with weapons. We support its ideas, in other words, politically, and we also give it some financial support to build hospitals, roads, and to purchase vehicles. This does not mean we support it with weapons.

Police View Tupamaro Involvement in Riots

PY1309220094 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 8 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] According to a Police Intelligence Services report, "the MLN [National Liberation Movement - Tupamaros Faction] used violence to test the executive branch, political parties, and its organization and that of its kindred organizations" while, consecutively, "staging a comeback at the domestic and international level." The report states that the extradition of the Basques was "an excuse to ignite a spiral of violence." This document was extensively quoted by Interior Minister Angel Maria Gianola on the evening of 7 September during his interpellation about the incidents outside the Filtro Hospital [which occurred the day the alleged Basque ETA terrorists were extradited to Spain].

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The report states: "Beyond any benefits directly derived by the MLN from these events, leftist organizations that advocate domestic violence have resolved their methodology and strategic differences and reached greater understanding and coordination."

The report, to which the EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO had access, points out that "the task undertaken by MPP [People's Participation Movement] Deputies Helios Sarthou and Marcos Abelenda revealed three lines of action."

It is clear that "they acted as agents to pressurize the Broad Front (FA). They were the catalysts (in the attempt to thwart) the executive branch's enforcement of the extradition resolution and directly influenced the FA grass roots, who to a certain extent predisposed their sympathizers to support [FG leader] General (Liber) Seregni and [FG presidential candidate] (Tabare) Vazquez."

The document also highlights the reaction of trade union leaders during the incident. It states that "extreme-left trade union leaders within the PIT-CNT [Inter-union Workers Plenum-National Workers Convention] leadership were responsible for mustering most of the people at the rally."

The report points out that the participation of the PIT-CNT was not an expression of wholehearted support for the rally, but rather an attitude typical of the "solidarity" for initiatives proposed by leftist organizations.

The document states that "a team from the National Directorate of Intelligence and Information saw groups that participated in the demonstration buying blunt elements (iron, bricks, tiles) at the Barraca Palermo [not further identified].

Moreover, a box containing three Molotov cocktails was later found in the garden of a house near the Filtro Hospital."

The report states that "around 1730 local time, the Coraceros Corps tried to disperse the people. Only two charges were needed to disperse the demonstrators, who offered no serious resistance."

The document contains a report on the events, underlining that "as of that moment, reporters from CX-44 Radio Panamericana who were in the area with six mobile units, began to play a strategic role by giving an account of the number of police personnel, the injured, how the police cracked down on demonstrators, and the places where the latter were retreating."

"At 1800 (when it had already been learned through CX-44 Radio Panamericana and CX-36 Radio Centenario that there were people seriously injured, some by bullets) the situation of the Basques was relegated to a lower plane and Radio Panamericana merely focused on the incidents, the injured, and the role of the youngsters—'the resistance.' Eleuterio Fernandez and (Julio) Marenales extolled this latter point to the skies when the situation was approaching flash point."

According to the police report, "the clashes on the evening of 24 August were the baptism by fire for many militants of the 26 March Movement Youth Front, the MLN, the MRO [Uruguayan Revolutionary Movement], the PT [Workers Party], and the MPP [People's Participation Movement]. Following these events, these 'ultra-leftist' groups have the necessary elements to make a thorough assessment of the discipline, behavior, ability, and combat readiness of these new cadres."

The intelligence services consider "the issue of the Basques was, in sum, secondary. The important issue for the MLN leadership was to find an 'excuse' to trigger off a spiral of violence."

The reports further states that "on previous occasions, the MLN disclaimed all responsibility for acts of violence perpetrated by its leaders and members."

It adds that "this is merely a posture by the MLN, since elements that had allegedly been 'expelled' from the organization were seen taking part in the riots (...) Today the MLN changed its strategy and went for a clash, without considering the cost, to repay its debt to the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] for support during its years in 'exile.'"

Ultra-Left Group Endorses 'Violent Protest'

PY1309221294 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 8 Sep 94 p 15

[Excerpt] The Workers and People's Front (FOP), an ultra-left organization that endorses "all possible means of struggle" to "finish capitalism," has admitted having participated actively in the violent disturbances that occurred outside the Filtro Hospital on 24 August [when three alleged Basque terrorists were extradited to Spain]. It announced moreover that it will support all forms of violent protest that "the people" decide to stage.

On 2 September, FOP leader Ricardo Gonzalez said: "If the people intend to defend themselves with stones, we will also hurl stones. If the people opt for atomic bombs, we will also drop atomic bombs. We are part of the people, and not a small elite clique acting in isolation from the people."

During a news conference called by the FOP at the Uruguayan Revolutionary Movement (MRO) headquarters, located on the corner of Maldonado and Yi Streets, the Coordinating Board of Students—another radical organization—decided to carry "sticks" and "stones" to defend themselves from the police in future demonstrations.

"This is what thousands of political and social organizations have done, not here, but throughout the world. It is a legitimate right of the people (...). Regardless of what we may do, the masses, students (and) workers have followed that line of action. Pickets have not been established at the FOP's command; they have existed for hundreds of years," he said.

Other leaders who took part in the news conference conceded that they had flung stones during the clashes with the

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police outside the Filtro Hospital "in legitimate self-defense." Ruben Sassano, an FOP member, said: "I hurled stones because it is in truth a legitimate defense. We did not have weapons. The defenders of the regime are those who have the weapons." [passage omitted]

New Space Presidential Candidate Outlines Policies

PY1509013394 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 7 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] New Space presidential candidate Rafael Michelini said on 6 September that the first reform Uruguay has to face consists of a change of mentality, especially regarding the political system, because "nothing can be done without assuming the truth."

The candidate made the remarks during the series called "Open Dialogue With the Presidential Candidates," which has been organized by EL PAIS and which takes place every Tuesday at the Centro Theater.

Michelini indicated that the political parties have lost their perspective with regard to what the country is, and he asked the audience: "Is it not time to say things as they should be said?" Furthermore, he indicated that it is time to drop stereotyped models.

The candidate spoke about numerous national topics, especially about the need for an educational reform, and of modernizing productive structures so as to give youth "the hope for and possibilities of development." He also used words that were strongly critical of the social security system. In this respect, he said that "it cannot be permitted for a society as a whole to mortgage youth, as is being done with this system."

He also stressed that while overall employment is approximately 8 percent in the young sector of the population, up to 30 years of age, it reaches 25 percent in the male sector and 33 percent in the female sector, but those who do have work have to pay out 30 percent for social benefits.

Michelini also demanded a reform of the primary educational sector so that it will include all aspects, especially the type of education that is imparted, and he reported that Uruguay spends $10,000 per year for every classroom of 40 students, in other words, $250 per student, while more than 50 percent of the resources are used for bureaucratic purposes.

He indicated that he fully opposes the budget plebiscite in order to give the educational sector 27 percent of the budget, and he described his proposals to ensure that political action has the necessary clear-cut cleanliness.

It must be recalled that an abbreviated version of the conference will be published as usual on 11 September.

Venezuela

Government To Denounce U.S. to GATT on Gas Import Ban

PA1509033594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2154 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Caracas, 14 Sep (EFE)—The measure adopted by the U.S. Congress on imported gasoline, particularly gasoline from Venezuela, "is discriminatory" and responds to the interests of local producers, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli said today.

The Venezuelan Government will denounce U.S. protectionism on imported gasoline to GATT members.

"Our gasoline is much more refined than the one produced by U.S. producers" and that is why we say the measure approved by the U.S. Congress is "discriminatory," Burelli stated.

The U.S. Congress approved, 222 votes to 148, the measures on imported gasoline based on standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Burelli affirmed that experts from the state-owned Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. (PDVSA) have demonstrated that Venezuelan gasoline is less contaminating than the gasoline produced in the United States and only represents 4 percent of gasoline consumed in this country.

Burelli stated that U.S. congressmen were pressured by U.S. producers, even though the Clinton administration signed a pact with Venezuela last March to prevent the approval of such a protectionist measure.

The foreign minister added that given the subsequent failure, Venezuela will appeal to GATT members so it can declare Congress' decision "protectionist and discriminatory" and reject it.

Development Minister Alberto Poletto said the fact 50 percent representatives from the President's own party voted in favor of this measure shows that the Executive branch did not do enough to prevent this from happening, despite the pact.

Poletto insisted that "there is no environmental reason to prohibit the importation of our gasoline, because the issue here is one of closing the doors to our products, as was done with tuna."

"We are seeing here a new kind of protectionism coming from developed countries, which is being invoked for ecological arguments," the Venezuelan minister declared.

Poletto explained that before 23 September, Venezuela will appeal to the GATT General Secretariat to have the report included on the agenda of its board meeting in Geneva on 4 October.

Poletto added it has not yet been decided if in order to resolve this issue, the mediation of the general director will

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be sought or if Venezuela will request that a commission be created to study, assess, and decide the case.

"Anyway," the minister explained, "we are prepared and have all the necessary technical information and evidence to demonstrate we are in the right." Poletto remarked that in the March accord, the U.S. Administration agreed to allow the creation of a commission within GATT to study the problem. The minister noted this procedure is relatively slow, and six to nine months may pass before the GATT Commission issues its ruling.

Poletto also said the measure approved by the U.S. Congress will ultimately affect U.S. consumers, because it will push up gasoline prices.

Meanwhile, Edwin Arrieta, minister of energy and mines, affirmed that Venezuelan gasoline "more closely follows all EPA standards than U.S.-produced gasoline." Arrieta estimated the amount of exported gasoline that will be affected totals about $50 million, but said that PDVSA has markets in Latin America and Europe that will immediately absorb the production marked for the United States. "It is regrettable that Venezuela has followed hemispheric solidarity but it is now being rejected, and not because of us," Arrieta stressed. The Venezuelan minister added that no reprisals have been considered, but admitted that the agreement on some Venezuelan imports from the United States, such as wheat, may be revised because there are other suppliers.

Arrieta discounted that the U.S. Congress decision is related to pressure on Venezuela to receive Haitian and Cuban refugees, and concluded it is an electoral measure tied to the U.S. internal elections.

Commentary Questions Poll Conducted in Armed Forces

PA1109165094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Commentary by Jose Vicente Rangel from the "Real Truth" segment of the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Some strange things are happening in Venezuela. Nothing should surprise us, because this is the country of the inconceivable.

It appears that no one knows—whether it was the president of the Republic or the defense minister—who ordered that a poll be conducted of the Armed Forces. This poll was conducted on 6, 7, and 8 August by the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DIM). The results of the poll are highly political. The poll, called "Internal Climate of the Armed Forces," was conducted among professional military personnel in the four branches of service, including regional police agents in the following states: Apure, Aragua, Barinas, Bolivar, Carabobo, Federal District, Guarico, Lara, Merida, Miranda, Monagas, Nueva Esparta, Sucre, and Yaracuy.

The subject of the polls is the "internal climate in the Armed Forces." Why do I bring up this poll? I do this because I have received information from inside the Armed Forced indicating the poll has caused malaise. There is malaise because it is assumed that the poll was not conducted scientifically and technically: It is a laboratory result. The poll was developed superficially and without the consultations that should precede an investigation of this kind.

Therefore, what people inside the Armed Forces are asking and what one as a commentator or analyst of the situation can ask is: What is the goal of a poll of this nature conducted through an important organization like the DIM? What is its purpose? Is there an intention to harm some high-ranking officers? Is there an intention to benefit and protect other officers, given the changes to take place shortly in the High Command? This is the question being asked.

It will be obvious that if this poll was not conducted technically, a different goal was sought than what prompted it initially. Then one must consider if it is legal, if it is professional, if it is acceptable that such an important state institutions use such mechanisms. This is a question that is now being raised in an institution as important as the Armed Forces.

Fedecamaras President Hails Benefits of Fuel Price Increase

PA1209160194 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 9 Sep 94 p E-5

[Report on interview with Edgar Romero Navas, President of the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Fedecamaras, by correspondent Evaristo Marin in Barcelona; date not given]

[Text] Edgar Romero Navas, Fedecamaras president, has argued that possible protests generated by a fuel price increase are not as important as the benefits the nation would reap from earning fair revenues from that sector.

As for the other problems now being discussed with regard to the so-called Corrales Plan, Romero Navas believes that social security and economic stability are the fundamental concerns.

Interviewed while attending the inauguration of Expo-Anaco, Romero Navas noted "I do not believe it is desirable for the country to continue to lose millions and millions so that its oil industry can subsidize the fuel we consume. Fuel prices go up once, prices for other goods increase every day, and if we do not stop inflation and come up with an economic policy, the situation could worsen instead of improving. This will not help the situation of the workers, much less that of Fedecamaras."

[Marin] Will there be any agreement regarding the benefits system?

[Romero Navas] We would hope so. The current system harms the workers, because their benefits will devaluate and harms the companies because the benefits will be

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retroactive. We should find an alternative that does not harm, but benefits both the workers and companies.

[Marin] In your opinion, what should be the plan's main objective?

[Romero Navas] We believe social security, exchange stability, and a definition of prices and wages take priority. The challenge is to help the country overcome this serious inflation problem. It does not help that there is a lot of money on the streets if it is never enough to buy anything because inflation reduces its value.

Romero Navas mentions the case of current fuel prices, which are below the costs Petroven [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] and its subsidiaries must pay to produce the fuel.

[Romero Navas] A fuel price increase could benefit all of us if—thanks to it—the nation stops losing millions and millions of bolivares every day.

Banco Consolidado Placed Under State Control

PA1309162894 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "Union Radio News" program]

[Text] At a meeting on the night of 12 September, the Venezuelan Central Bank board of directors decided to place Banco Consolidado under state control [estatizar]. The decision came after Jose Alvarez Stelling, president of that financial institution, agreed to sell to the state Banco Consolidado shares at a price of one bolivar a share.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA1309185294

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored through 13 September.

The national government has 10.5 billion bolivares available to reactivate small-sized and medium-sized industries. Special Minister Pompeyo Marquez explained that the macroeconomic stabilization plan will be based in the next two years on the reactivation of the productive sector as a whole. As a result, small-sized and medium-sized industries are viewed as a complement to large industries. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Sep 94)

A report from Caracas on 7 September states that according to the Central Statistics and Data Processing Office, passenger vehicle imports dropped 69.4 percent in the first half of 1994. It added that 5,998 passenger vehicles were imported. In that same period, the import of vehicles for mass transportation and cargo registered a 67.7 percent drop. (Paris AFP in Spanish 2033 GMT 7 Sep 94)

Maraven has granted the Tecpetrol-Nomeco-Corxland-Wascana international consortium the right to develop the Colon unit, located south of Lake Maracaibo and formed by nine petroleum fields that are producing approximately 5,000 barrels of light crude a day. The fields are Casigua, Rosario, Tarra, Las Cruces, Tres Bocas, Los Manueles, Rio de Oro, Dornito, and Concordia, located in Catatumbo Municipality, several of them close to the border with Colombia. (Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Sep 94 p E-3)

Lagoven added 60 million barrels to its proven reserves in the first half of 1994 with the discovery of three petroleum deposits south of Maturin and in Lake Maracaibo. Freddy Chiquito, head of Lagoven's Geology Department, said the Las Piedritas petroleum field was discovered south of Maturin and has reserves of approximately 24 million barrels. He said two new deposits of light crude were discovered in Lake Maracaibo. (Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 12 Sep 94 Section 1 p 12)

According to the reports presented by the affiliates of the Venezuelan Petroleum Corporation, PDVSA, Venezuela produced 2.653 million barrels a day in the first half of 1994. Lagoven continues to lead production with 1.36 million barrels a day, followed by Maraven with 857,000 barrels a day, and Corpoven with 760,000 barrels a day. The country placed an average of 2.271 million barrels a day in internatinal markets. Petroleum export revenue in the same period reached more than $5.057 billion. In the area of refining, 1.31 million barrels a day were refined, most of them at the Amuay refinery. (Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 12 Sep 94 p 16)

Suriname

Bouterse Advocates Military Approach 'To Save The Country'

BR1309141194 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 12 Sep 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Bouterse Wants To Take 'Military' Approach to Suriname"]

[Text] Paramaribo—According to former commander D. Bouterse, Suriname must be "militarized" to help save the country. The people will have to work "day and night," according to the former Army leader, and strikes must be banned.

Bouterse spoke Friday evening [9 September] at a meeting of the National Democratic Party (NDP), of which he is chairman. "You have to be prepared for us to militarize the situation," he said to the "people's meeting" of the NDP in the Ocer party center. Bouterse felt strongly about a victory in the 1996 elections. "We will have to work day and night to clean up the mess. People in this country do not want to work anymore."

The former military commander mentioned a recent opinion poll according to which his party would receive 21 percent of the vote. It also said that all individual government parties would sustain substantial losses. According to it, their current combination, the "New Front," would drop from 43 percent to 1 percent of the vote.

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Bouterse did admit, however, that the actions which his party had held out as a prospect had not been carried out because the grassroots had not reacted enthusiastically enough to his call to register as members and participate in the NDP actions. The number of registrations scarcely rose to 4,000. The NDP had counted on a minimum of 15,000 registrations.

Bouterse painted the Netherlands as a villain, "with all due respect for the people of the Netherlands." "They brought our forefathers here in order to exploit us and they want a Venetiaan-type [a reference to President Venetiaan] government," Bouterse said. Some Surinamese parties are trying "deviously to bring Suriname back to the North Sea." Bouterse attributes reports that the Indonesian conglomerate MUSA is guilty of widescale deforestation in West Suriname in the rain forest to Netherlands "propaganda."

Bouterse also expressed his displeasure that his son, Dino, is still in custody on suspicion of involvement in a gangland slaying. Around one month ago, Dino Bouterse gave himself up to authorities after consulting with his father.

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